

1969

UA68/17/2 Scrapbook 1968-1969

Western Players

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WESTERN

PLAYERS

PRESENT

The Year
in
Review

'68/'69

Players bill open house

Western Players will hold an Open House at 7:30 tonight in Rooms 103 and 104 of the student center.

An evening of dramatic and musical entertainment is planned. Also Dr. Russell Miller of the speech and theater department will announce the major productions for the year.

In addition, the fall pledges to Alpha Psi Omega dramatic fraternity will be announced.

Following the program, there will be a reception for new members and refreshments will be served.

All speech and theater majors and students interested in becoming members of Western Players are urged to attend.

Players pick 'Liliom' for opener

Western Players began auditions for their first major production last night in Snell Hall Auditorium.

Ferenc Molnas' "Liliom" has been chosen as the first production. The story of Liliom, the carousel barker, and his lover, Julie, is well known in both the original and in "Carousel," the musical adaptation by Rodgers and Hammerstein.

The tragic love story is filled with tenderness and suspense. When Liliom fails in an attempted hold-up, he stabs himself to escape arrest. After his death, he appears before a police court magistrate in heaven. Given 16 years to contemplate his sins, he is allowed to return to earth to redeem himself.

Auditions are being held through next week at 7 p.m. in Snell Hall Auditorium. Anyone interested in a part is invited to attend.

THE COLLEGE HEIGHTS HERALD, Bowling Green, Ky. 11
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1968

'J.B.' and 'Wait Until Dark' head list of Western Players productions

By GAIL BARTON

Western Players announced the four major productions for the year at their first meeting last Thursday.

The first production is Ferenc Molnas' "Liliom." The play deals with a carousel barker named Liliom and his lover Julie. After being stabbed in an attempted holdup, Liliom is given a trial in heaven. He is allowed, after 16 years, to return to earth to redeem himself. The tragic love story was made popular in the musical adaptation "Carousel" by Rodgers and Hammerstein.

Neil Simon's "The Star Spangled Girl" had been chosen as the second production. The comedy tells the story of a scatterbrained olympic

swimmer who is recovering from defeat by a contestant from a desert country. The 100 per cent American girl has many encounters with her two male neighbors who are writing a protest magazine.

"Star Spangled Girl" is currently played on Broadway with Anthony Perkins and Connie Stevens in the lead roles.

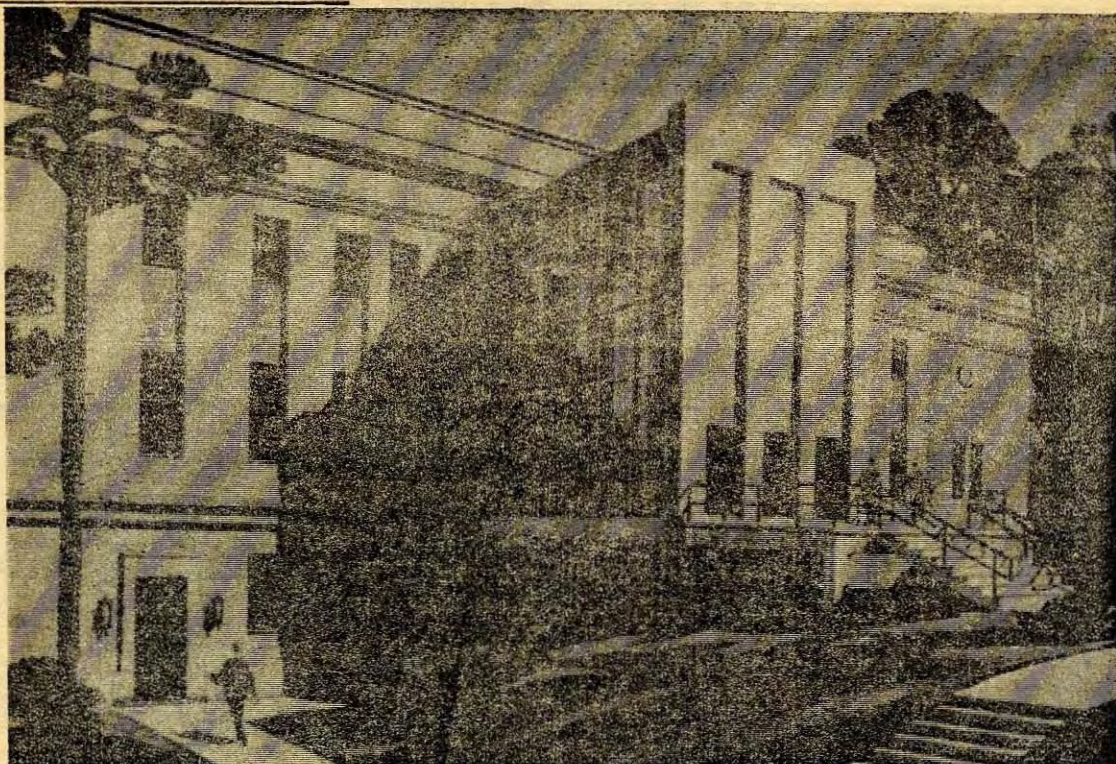
Perhaps one of the most interesting plays presented this year will be Archibald MacLeish's "J. B." which is slated as the third production. The play is a modern version of the Biblical story of Job. A tattered circus which symbolizes the world will provide the setting. J. B. a successful businessman, is the

modern counterpart of Job.

Rounding out the season will be Fredernick Knot's "Wait Until Dark." The suspense drama is about a blind girl who innocently acquires a doll stuffed with heroin. When her husband leaves town, three men try to recover it. Lee Remick played the title role in a Broadway production, while Audrey Hepburn recently did the part in a movie.

Dr. Mildred Howard of the speech and theater department will direct "J. B." The other three productions will be directed by Dr. Russell H. Miller also of the speech and theater department.

Production dates will be announced later.



THE NEWLY ORGANIZED Speech and Theater department will be housed in the former library. It is being reconstructed to fit its new purpose.

Speech and theater gets new department of its own

By SONDRA LEE

"The costumes, the make up, the scenery, the props..." and all phases of the theater are now being offered in the newly organized speech and theater department.

The department has ten full-time instructors, three part-time instructors and two graduate assistants who are "really enthusiastic about the

program," according to Randall Capps, department head.

Previously, drama, speech and theater were included in the English department. Due to the rapidly increasing English department, a separate department for speech and theater was organized. The former library is presently being renovated to house the study facilities of debate, forensics, drama and theater.

Classrooms for the new department are presently located in Cherry Hall, Rock House, Curry House and Seminar Center No. 1.

Theatrical productions will be held in the Van Meter Auditorium which is presently being renovated. New equipment including improved lighting, air conditioning and an orchestra pit will offer possibilities for unique effects.

The debate teams, under the direction of Gary Bradford, are planning to participate in twenty tournaments on several campuses across the nation.

DeArmond to Head Drama Fraternity

Bill DeArmond, Bowling Green, has been elected the 1968-69 president of the Mu Lambda Chapter of the Alpha Psi Omega drama fraternity.

Other new officers are Donna Mickey, Lexington, vice president; Beverly Gail Barton, Falls-of-Rough, secretary-treasurer; and Georgie Gidcumb, Russellville, public relations representative.



Russell H. Miller was my teacher and my friend. Many others can also say this. Perhaps no other faculty member at Western has had as much personal contact with as many students as did he. He devoted himself to speech and drama and raised the level of achievement in these areas far above the expected, and for many years he did it almost entirely on his own.

Russell Miller demanded much of his students. But he always demanded more of himself. He never asked a student, a debating team, a cast to do what he himself was unwilling to do. His was a demand of dedication, and those who worked with him for any length of time learned the meaning of that word.

We learned it through his persistence--yes his patience--with us. We learned it through the example of hard work he set for us. We learned it because he spent long night hours with students, refining speech patterns, guiding the construction of logical and coherent debate cases, polishing orations, developing portrayals of the characters of drama. And the next day he was back to work as usual.

In many ways Russell Miller was a lonely man. He had no wife; he had no family; he owned no car; he had no house or fancy apartment. His radio even remained unplugged. Few human voices were ever heard in the confines of his living quarters.

But there were other things about this man. He had a sense of humor--expressed best by quiet, well-timed witticisms. He enjoyed singing with his students while on the road to or from a debating trip. He would give simple, encouraging words when he felt they were needed because it was his nature to encourage as well as to demand. It was difficult for him to express appreciation, but he felt it deeply. No man could have made so many diverse characters of drama live through so many diverse personalities and temperaments without a strong feeling for and understanding of people.

What's more, Russell Miller was an unselfish person. With his own earnings he helped support his mother who was unable to support herself. With his own pen and in the midst of a very busy schedule he wrote a letter to me when my father died. I visited him twice at the hospital during his last illness, and both times he spoke more of others than of himself.

Today there are people in classrooms presenting material with ease because Russell Miller helped them gain confidence. Today there are men behind pulpits who are able to communicate more effectively because of Russell Miller. Today there are people in professional drama who got their start and their inspiration under Russell Miller. Today the whole level of cultural understanding and appreciation in Bowling Green is higher because of Russell Miller. And wherever people are under the guidance or influence of Russell Miller's former students there people's lives are being enriched because Russell Miller has lived.

Memorable theater era ends with death of Dr. Miller

By GAIL BARTON
Herald Staff Writer

Author, director of Western Players, and professor of speech and theater, Dr. Russell H. Miller died Nov. 24.

Dr. Miller was pronounced dead on arrival at St. Thomas Hospital, Nashville, Tenn. Suffering from a kidney ailment, he was being transferred from Bowling Green-Warren County Hospital where he had been receiving treatment for the past few weeks.

Funeral services were conducted on Nov. 26 at the First Baptist Church; burial was at the Masonic Cemetery in Amory, Miss.

Survivors include his mother, a sister and four brothers.

A native of Amory, Miss., Dr. Miller held a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from the University of Mississippi, and he received his Ph.D. from Columbia University in New York.

War Veteran

Dr. Miller was a veteran of World War I and he was assigned to special services and served in North Africa.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church; Sigma Chi, Phi Delta Kappa and Alpha Psi Omega fraternities; the Lions club; the Kentucky Education Association; the Kentucky Historical Society; the Kentucky Speech Association and the Filson club of Louisville.

Dr. Miller taught at Parkland High School in Louisville from 1932-1935. In addition he was head of the college secretarial department at the Bowling Green Business University from 1935 until 1942 and from 1946 until 1947.

Theater was his life and he devoted all of his energies to the development of culture in Bowling Green. In 1947 he joined the faculty at Western and became the director of Western Players. Since 1956 he has served as producing director for the Western Summer Theatre. He was also one of the founders and the producing director of the Alley Playhouse.

Admired Williams

Dr. Miller was a great



A director's talent and a critic's eye

admirer of Tennessee Williams and he managed to direct many of his plays such as "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," "Summer and Smoke," "The Glass Menagerie" and "The Fugitive Kind." Some of the other plays he directed included "South Pacific," "Ghosts," "West Side Story," "Anastasia," "Life With Father" and "The Male Animal" to name only a few. "Liliom" was the last play that he directed.

In addition to directing, Dr. Miller was the author of the regional dramas "Giants Lie

Sleeping," "This Fair Land" and "Shakertown Revisited." He served as director and participated in the drama "Shakertown Revisited" which was a part of the Shaker Festival at Auburn for the past seven seasons.

Dedicated to Drama

It seemed as though nothing stood in his way during the production of a play. He made many personal sacrifices—occasionally even coming to rehearsal on a stretcher or in a wheel chair. Though he

Continued on page 15, column 3

Drama era ends with Dr. Miller's death

Continued from page 11

demanding much of his students, he was always around to offer advice or give encouragement. On the last night's performance of a play, members of Western Players recall that he would

always say, "This is the last time we will ever do this show together, let's make it our best."

Perhaps it will be hard for many students to think of a theater without Dr. Miller since he has been the director of

Western Player productions for the past 21 years.

Maybe many are trying to say what Horatio said at the death of Hamlet: "Now cracks a noble heart. good night, sweet prince and flights of angels sing thee to thy rest."

Because he lived...

EDITOR'S NOTE: This eulogy was posted on the door of Dr. Russell Miller's office the day after his death. It was written by one of his former students.

Russell H. Miller was my teacher and my friend. Many others can also say this. Perhaps no other faculty member at Western has had as much personal contact with as many students as did he. He devoted himself to speech and drama and raised the level of achievements in these areas far above the expected and for many years he did it almost entirely on his own.

Russell Miller demanded much of his students. But he always demanded more of himself. He never asked a student, a debating team, a cast to do what he himself was unwilling to do. His was a demand of dedication, and those who worked with him for any length of time learned the meaning of that word.

We learned it through his persistence—yes his patience—with us. We learned it through the example of hard work he set for us. We learned it because he spent long night hours with students, refining speech patterns, guiding the construction of logical and coherent debate cases, polishing orations, developing portrayals of the characters of drama. And the next day he was back to work as usual.

In many ways Russell Miller was a lonely man. He had no wife; he had no family; he owned no car; he had no house or fancy apartment. His radio ever remained unplugged. Few human voices were ever heard in the confines of his living quarters.

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Memorial fund to provide theatrical scholarships

A memorial scholarship fund is being established in the name of Dr. Russell Miller, former Western drama coach and faculty member.

The fund will provide a grant for a drama student and will be administered by the College

Heights Foundation, according to Randall Capps, acting head of the speech and theater department.

Donations are now being collected in the speech and theater department in Cherry Hall.



DR. RUSSELL MILLER

Russell Miller, WKU Speech Professor, Dies

Dr. Russell H. Miller, 63, of 1358 College St., Western Kentucky University professor of speech and theatre, died at 1 p.m. Sunday at St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville.

Funeral services for the Amory, Miss. native will be conducted at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the First Baptist Church with the Rev. O. O. Smith and the Rev. H. Howard Surface officiating.

Burial will be in Masonic Cemetery in Amory. The body is at the J. C. Kirby Funeral Chapel.

Miller was one of the founders and managing director of the Alley Playhouse and director of Western Players Guild.

He held the B.A. and master's degrees from the University of Mississippi and the Ph.D. from Columbia University.

A veteran of World War II, he entered the Army in 1942 with the rank of private and was discharged in 1946 with the rank of captain. He was assigned to special services and served in North Africa.

Miller taught at Terrebonne High School, Houma, La., from 1928 until 1934 and at Parkland High School, Louisville, from 1934 until 1935. He was head of the college secretarial department at the Bowling Green Business University from 1935 until 1942 and from 1946 until 1947, when he joined the Western faculty.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church, the Lions Club, Sigma Chi and Phi Delta Kappa fraternities, the Kentucky Education Association, the Kentucky Historical Society, the Kentucky Speech Association and the Filson Club of Louisville.

Survivors include his mother, Mrs. Minnie Hale Miller, West Point, Miss.; one sister, Mrs. Jim Moore, Amory, and four brothers, Norman J. Miller, New Albany, Miss.; Hugh and Robert Miller, both of Amory, and Erskine Miller, West Point.

"Liliom"

Playbill for the Western Players



FERENC MOLNAR'S

"LILIOM"

English text by

Benjamin F. Glazer

NOVEMBER 6, 7, 8 and 9, 1968

Season's first production

Players present 'Liliom' Nov. 6

By GAIL BARTON
Herald Staff Writer

Western Players' will open their season Wednesday with Ferenc Molnar's tragi-comedy "Liliom."

Starring in the production will be Judy Miller as Julie and Leo Burmester as Liliom.

Others included in the cast are Tim McGahey, Tom Fuller, Steve Smith, Elizabeth Anderson, Shirlee Strother, George Solley, Tom Malcom, Holly Pattern, Jonelda Baker, John David McCombs, Bob Bowen, Jeanette Winn, Pat Reed, Shawn Lee, Mike Osburn, Joe Neary, Mike Schultz and Eddie Bryant.

"Liliom" begins with a memorable prologue at an amusement park on the outskirts of Budapest. The play then leads into a love story between a young carousel barker (Liliom) and a servant girl named Julie. His boss, Mrs. Muskat, tries to lure him back to the carousel but he refuses to leave Julie.

The brutal yet gentle Liliom is often unable to express his love for Julie with words, so he beats her. Equally unable of expressing her thoughts, Julie understands.

Liliom cannot seem to find the motivation to provide for his wife until he discovers that she

is pregnant. He fails in an attempted robbery and rather than face imprisonment, kills himself with a knife.

After spending 16 years in purgatory, Liliom is allowed to

return to earth for one day in order to redeem himself. Liliom does the nicest thing he knows how to do — he brings his daughter a star which he has

Continued on page 12, column 1

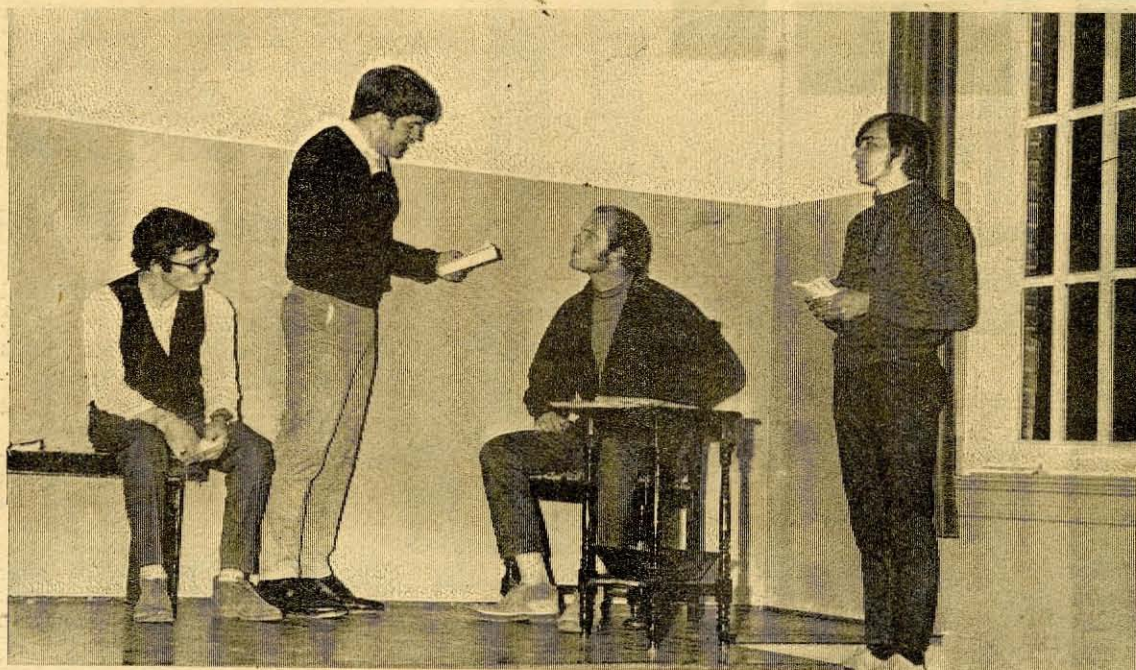


Photo by Paul Schuhmann

OPENING ANOTHER SEASON Western Players will begin next Wednesday night with "Liliom," the story of a carousel barker. Getting ready for their debut are (l to r) Dan Sellers, Leo Burmester, who stars as Liliom, George Solley and Mike Schulz. The play will run Nov. 6 to 9 in Snell Hall Auditorium. Curtain time is 8:15 p.m. and tickets are \$1.50.

'Liliom' opens Wednesday in Snell Auditorium

Continued from page 1

stolen from heaven.

The stranger on earth (Liliom) slaps his daughter when she accuses him of lying. After he has gone, she tells her mother that she was unable to feel the sting of the slap. Julie then replies, "It is possible, dear, that someone may beat you and beat you — and not hurt you at all."

Though the play was written in 1908, it was not until 1921 that

it opened in New York with Eva Le Gallienne and Joseph Schildkrat in the lead roles. The **New York Times** called it 'Barrie done in terms of realism instead of sentimentality.'

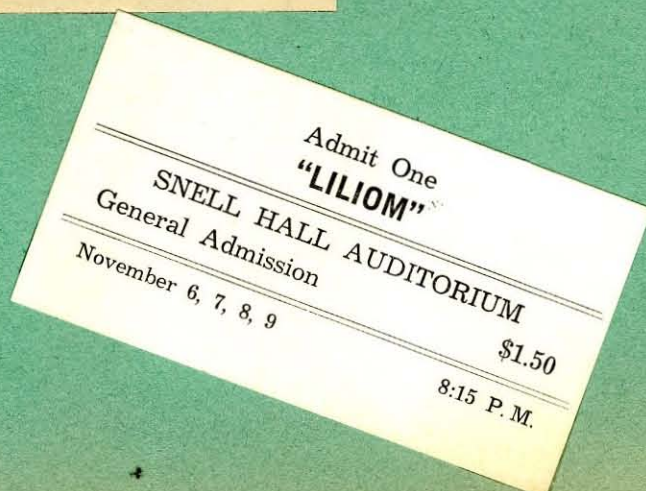
In 1940 the play was revived in New York with Burgess Meredith and Ingrid Bergman, a Swedish motion picture star who made her American stage debut in the role of Julie.

With music by Richard Rodgers and lyrics by Oscar

Hammerstein II, "Liliom" reappeared again in 1945 as the famous musical "Carousel."

"Liliom" will be presented at 8:15 p.m. on Nov. 6, 7, 8 and 9 in Snell Hall Auditorium. The play is under the direction of Dr. Russell H. Miller of the speech and theater department. James Brown, also of the speech and theater department, is the technical director.

Tickets are \$1.50 and they may be purchased from members of the cast or at the door.

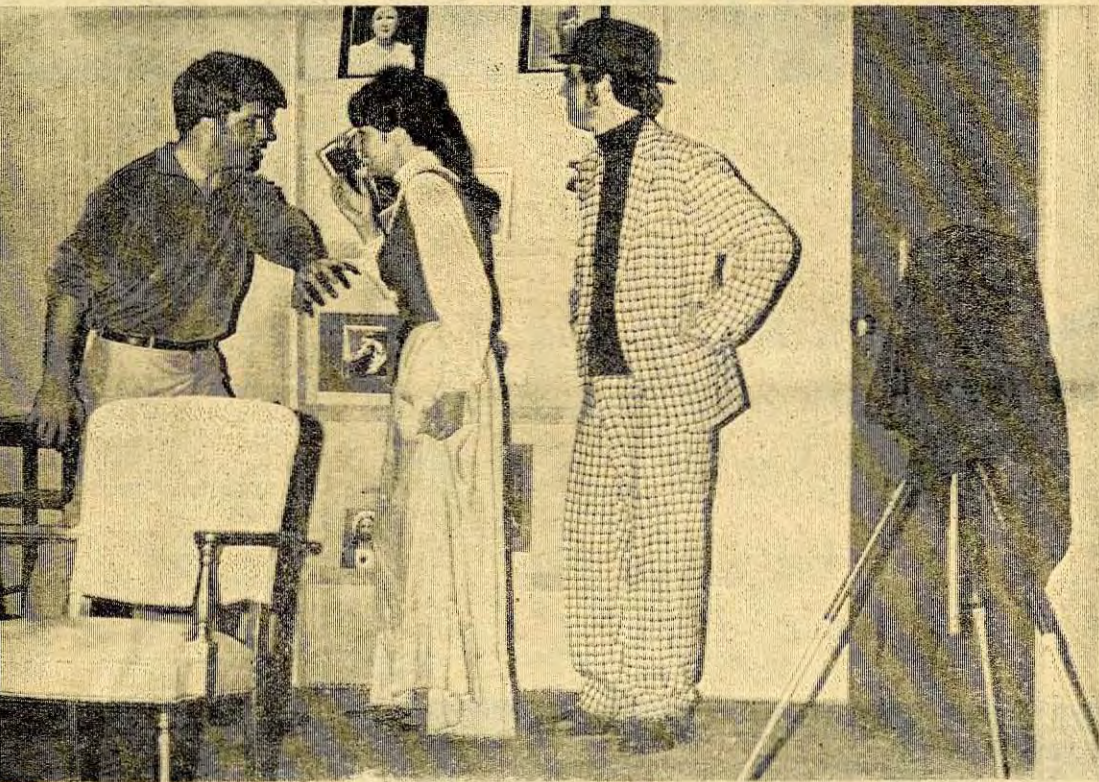


'Liliom' combines tragedy, comedy as nightly performances continue

By GAIL BARTON
Herald Staff Writer

The curtain will rise at 8:15 tonight on the second per-

Photos by Paul Schuhmann



formance of Western Players' first major production of Ferenc Molnar's tragi-comedy "Liliom."

Starring in the play will be Leo Burmeister as Liliom and Judy Miller as Julie. Tim McGauhey will play the part of Ficsur.

Unlike many of the Players' previous productions, "Liliom" is a combination of both tragic and comic elements. The audience will follow Liliom's humorous remarks about the police and in almost the same instance they will witness his death as he commits suicide in order to escape imprisonment for an attempted robbery.

This mixing of serious and comic elements may give one somewhat the same type of impression as did the movie "Bonnie and Clyde," though in story content the two are very different.

The Hungarian play "Liliom" first opened in New York in 1921 with Eva Le Gallienne and Joseph Schildkrat in the lead roles. It was revived in 1940 with Burgess Meredith and Ingrid Bergman.

In 1945 "Liliom" reappeared in the form of a musical, "Carousel" by Rodgers and

Hammerstein. Both tell the story of the love of a servant girl for a roughneck carnival barker. Actually, "Carousel" follows the play "Liliom" very closely, except the story is transplanted to a New England shore and there is an addition of a chorus of factory girls and fishermen.

As in "Liliom," Liliom (now Billy Biglow) marries Julie, attempts robbery, commits suicide when caught by the police, is tried in Heaven and is allowed to return to earth in order to do one good deed.

"Carousel" made such songs as "If I Loved You" and "You'll Never Walk Alone" famous. It achieved the author's aim to be "not 'Liliom' with some songs added, but truly a musical play based on 'Liliom.'"

"Liliom" is really a tragedy of the inarticulate — the characters seem unable to communicate with one another, possibly because they are unable to really understand themselves. As Liliom says, "Nobody's right — but they all think they are right."

The play is under the direction of Dr. Russell Miller of the speech and theater department. Also of the same department, James Brown will add his touch to the set design and other technical aspects.

Performances will be at 8:15 tonight, tomorrow and Saturday in Snell Hall Auditorium.

Tickets are \$1.50 and they may be purchased from members of Western Players or at the door.

Players' Production To Open On Wednesday

The Western Players, under the direction of Dr. Russell H. Miller, will present Frederick Molnar's "Liliom" on Wednesday through Saturday in Snell Hall Auditorium at 8:15 p.m.

* * *

Rogers and Hammerstein's popular musical, "Carousel," was adapted from this masterpiece of romance, tragedy and fantasy. From its first appearance on Broadway in 1926 until the present, it has been a favorite love story of people the world over.

The play begins with the meeting of the gentle, beautiful Julie and her future husband, the irascible, handsome barker, Liliom, and ends with Liliom's visit to earth 16 years after he kills himself.

The tragic love story shows how Liliom is incapable of showing love except by violence, and also shows how Julie understands this because of her love for Liliom.

It is a play that brings joy and tears to the audience, and yet avoids sugary sentimentality.

Liliom is played by Leo Burmeister, and Julie is played by Judy Miller. Julie's friend is portrayed by Elizabeth Anderson. Mrs. Muskat is played by Shirlee Strother.

* * *

Other members of the cast are:

Tom Fuller, Eddie Bryant, Steve Smith, George Solley, Mike Osborne, Tim McGaughey, Mike Schulz, Tom Malcomb, Joe Neary, Dan Sellers, Sean Lee, Gineida Baker, Holly Patten and Jeannette Winn.

Tickets for "Liliom" go on

sale Monday. They can be purchased from any member of Western Players, or in the Speech and Theatre office at the university. Only general admission tickets are available for the four performances.



Players present 'Liliom'

'Liliom' pleases audiences despite interpretation problems

By JUDY KLEIN

It is difficult to determine whether "Liliom" was originally intended as a character play in which the characters become well-known and accepted by the audience, or whether it is a non-character play in which the characters are simply representatives of some larger overall human emotion. The Western Players evidently decided to take the middle road and interpret it as being both.

A four-night run of the play ended Saturday with what seemed to be a good response from the audience. The play was enjoyable, but enjoyable from the plot standpoint rather than the character development standpoint.

Continuity was perhaps the strongest point of the entire production. All performers did excellently in tying together new scenes, new plot developments and new aspects of the overall theme.

Again this plot stress and continuity was handled well in the introduction of characters. There was one blatant exception to this overall trend. Ficsur, played by Tim McGaughey, entered the story in scene two. While his performance at the entrance moment was reasonably good, the gestures and voice inflections of the other players totally reduced the significance of his appearance. At this time such an appearance should have been a proof of the unhappiness and frustration Julie and Liliom were experiencing. This appearance, if handled more directly, could have been an excellent foreshadowing device of the future action Liliom would take.

On the whole, the entire play was handled well. One exception cannot be overlooked. The robbery scene was obviously a difficult one for the players, and the overall positions and struggles were not handled realistically. The struggle between the cashier and Ficsur could have easily ended with one tap from Ficsur's free arm. It was very difficult for the audience to identify with such

an obviously one-sided struggle.

The highlight of the entire play was the consistent and excellent performance of Leo Burmester as Liliom. He handled character development well and his emotional reactions rang true. His gestures and inflections were natural, and his facial expressions were revealing. He was the one player to come out of the evening as a person, complete and understandable.

Julie, played by Judy Miller, seemed to have a bit of difficulty in the scenes she played with Liliom. It is almost ironic that her character is much more open to the audience after Liliom's death than before. Her performance in scenes five through seven were far better than the others and her emotional reaction at the death scene was obviously in character and was handled nicely. While Julie is determined as a character to remain an enigma in the first sections of the play, some facial expression, a little stronger gesturing, and some natural voice changes could have revealed her more openly to the public.

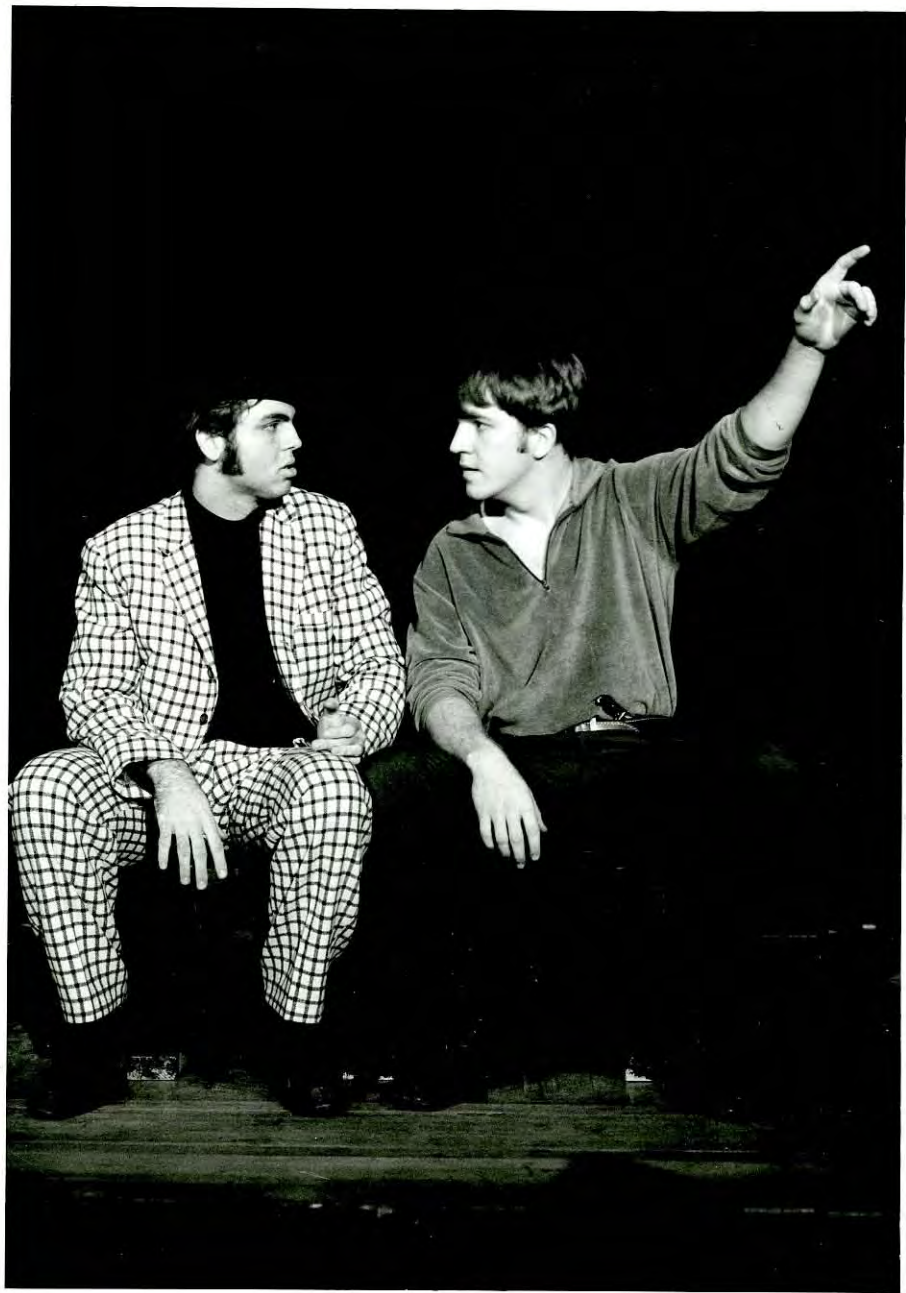
Marie, played by Elizabeth Anderson, was a delightful character from beginning through the end. The remarkable part of her performance was the excellent handling of the transition in character before her success and after. She handled it with praise-worthy finesse.

Another role that seemed to lose through an understating approach was that of Mother Hollunder. The character, played by Pat Reed, assumed a role of expressionless theme-stating. While this character had some of the most powerful dialogue in the play much of this was definitely lost in this underplaying of emotion. While the character was quite effective in most instances, there were a few places where the delightful irony of her statements would have been better received with more emphasis.

On the whole the casting was good, the Players gave the audience an enjoyable evening and the problems were those of interpretation. The characters that were characters were well-handled, the characters that were non-characters were the actors and actresses that defined the plot and brought it to a healthy conclusion.









THE STAR-SPANGLED GIRL!




by

Neil Simon



January 15 to 16
8:15 pm



NEIL SIMON'S
COMEDY

**THE
STAR-SPANGLED
GIRL**

Snell Hall \$1.00

"GIRL"

\$1.00

P.M.

One
"THE STAR-SPANGLED GIRL"

SNELL AUDITORIUM

\$1.00

8:15 P.M.

Admit One
"THE STAR-SPANGLED GIRL"

SNELL HALL AUDITORIUM
General Admission

January 16

Admit One
"THE STAR-SPANGLED GIRL"

SNELL HALL AUDITORIUM
General Admission

January 15

\$1.00

8:15 P.M.

'Star Spangled Girl' plays through Saturday

By GAIL BARTON
Herald Staff Writer

Can a couple find happiness if they are greatly attracted to each other physically?

That is the question hilariously raised and answered in the comedy called "The Star Spangled Girl" which opened

last night in Snell Hall Auditorium.

The play will continue through Saturday at 8:15 nightly. Tickets may be purchased from cast members or at the door for \$1.

Steve Smith and Bill Weathers (Norman and Andy) will have the roles of the two young protest writers, and Kathy

Walters (Sophie) is the athletic young lady with conventional ideas about American institutions.

Miss Walters had this to say about Sophie: "She is purely amazed at the two protest writers. This is probably the first situation that she has had to cope with since leaving her hometown in Arkansas."

Neil Simon's play provides an up-to-the-minute spoofing of youthful protest movements. It is very typical of the rebellious youth of today and their resultant protest magazines.

In addition to developing the protest theme, Simon has a sly, antic way of proving that love is not a matter of intellect but of emotions. A love situation develops which is largely based on the sense of smell. Norman first sniffs Sophie's hair shampoo and is a goner. Later Sophie's nostrils begin to quiver when Andy is around and she is a goner.

"The Star Spangled Girl" ran for over eight months in New York during the 1966-67 season.

Bill Parsons, of the speech and theater department, is the director in charge. James Brown of the same department designed the set which will represent the boy's apartment.



Photo by Paul Schuhmann

THE 'STAR SPANGLED GIRL' opened last night in Snell Hall Auditorium and continues through Saturday evening. Bill Weathers portrays Andy and Kathy Walters is the apple-pie, super-patriot Olympic swimmer who tries to foil the attempts of Andy and Norman, portrayed by Steve Smith, who are trying to publish an underground newspaper. The curtain rises at 8:15.

Production By Western Players Opens Tonight

Love and ideology get mixed, but not blended, in "The Star Spangled Girl," the comedy being presented by the Western Players at the Snell Hall Auditorium tonight through Saturday.

The comedy by Neil Simon, author of such other hits as "Barefoot in the Park," "The Odd Couple," and "Plaza Suite," scored an eight-month run on Broadway during the 1966-67 season.

The play's title refers to an alluring girl of athletic prowess and proper patriotic principles who moves into a San Francisco apartment and becomes a disturbing influence on a pair of young men who live across the hall.

They are not imbued with her 100 per cent Americanism. By stalling off bill collectors they are doggedly writing and publishing a little magazine of social protest, satirizing all they think is wrong with present-day society. In their dissenting eyes, their pretty neighbor is a dopey square, but this opinion becomes irrelevant as romance rears its head.

One of the iconoclastic young

men falls so deeply in love with the muscular miss that his collaborator is impelled to help his courtship—stalled because the flag-draped girl is outraged by his opinions. In the end ideology takes a beating as the square but curvaceous girl finds herself attracted by her suitor's friend. The square girl precipitates a comical, topical triangle.

Kathy Walters will be seen as the girl with the pro-American sentiments, Bill Weathers and Steve Smith are the impecunious young heretics who learn from her that love must be reckoned with while pursuing their social criticism.

The comedy with its up-to-the-minute reflection of youthful protest is directed by Bill Parsons and the scenery representing the site of the confrontation of polarized viewpoints—the combination home of the Bohemian young men and their "editorial offices"—has been designed by James L. Brown.

Tickets may be purchased at the speech and theatre department at Western Kentucky University, or from any member of Western Players.

Players to present 'Star Spangled Girl'

Rehearsals have begun on Western Players' second major production, Neil Simon's "The Star Spangled Girl."

Kathy Walters will play the title role. Also in the cast are Steve Smith as Norman, a romantic writer, and Bill Weathers as Andy, a serious-minded one.

"The Star Spangled Girl" tells the story of an All American olympic swimmer named Sophie who has been defeated by a girl from a desert country. Her problems are further complicated when she moves next door to two anti-American men who are writing a protest magazine. The apple-pie patriot, who is engaged to a Marine lieutenant, can't stand protesters.

In addition to the protesting, the play introduces a new variation of the love theme—attraction based on the sense of smell. When Norman gets a sniff of Sophie's shampoo, he is a goner. He follows her to the YMCA swimming pool and writes love notes on the

stair steps. Later in the play, Sophie's nostrils begin to quiver when Andy is around.

To further the complications, the two young writers are broke. In fact, Andy has to put his shirt in the freezer because he can't afford to buy starch.

"The Star Spangled Girl" is currently playing on Broadway with Connie Stevens, Anthony Perkins and Richard Benjamin.

The play, under the direction of Bill Parsons of the speech and theatre department, will be presented Jan. 15-18 in Snell Hall Auditorium. Jim Brown of the same department will be the technical director.

To open at 8:15 Wednesday

Players set 'Star Spangled Girl'

By GAIL BARTON
Herald Staff Writer

Been wondering "Who is the Star Spangled Girl?"

That question will be answered in Western Players' next major production, Neil

Simon's "The Star Spangled Girl."

Norman and Andy (Steve Smith and Bill Weathers) are the sole writers of a protest magazine called "Fallout." They receive almost as much protest as they print from a

yellow-haired Olympic swimmer named Sophie (Kathy Walters).

It seems that all of the conditions are wrong for a romance to develop among these three. Sophie is an apple-pie patriot who firmly believes in the red, white and blue principles of America. While she thinks that the two men who are belittling the present day society are anti-American, they think that she is a square.

In spite of the personality conflicts, a triangular romance soon develops between Sophie, Norman and Andy, who live across the hall from her in a San Francisco apartment house.

Perhaps Norman goes to the most outlandish extremes to attract her attention. He paints love notes on the stairs and nibbles her ear lobes when she is within reach.

While conflicts and love abounds, there are also several gag lines such as, "Have I ever lied to you in the eight years I've know you? Yes, I've know you for nine years."

Neil Simon, author of "The Star Spangled Girl," has produced other such laugh-provoking plays as "Barefoot in the Park," "The Odd Couple" and "Come Blow Your Horn."

"The Star Spangled Girl" was one of the biggest comedy hits in New York during the 1966-67 season, running there for over eight months.

Bill Parsons of the speech and theater department is the director in charge and James Brown of the same department has designed the scenery representing a combination residence and editorial office of the protest magazine men.

The play is slated for 8:15 p.m. Jan. 15-18 in Snell Hall Auditorium. Tickets may be purchased from members of Western Players or at the door.



Photo by Paul Schuhmann

GIVING HER OPINION on patriotism to Bill Weathers (left) and Steve Smith (right) is Kathy Walters, 'The Star Spangled Girl.' Western Players next production is Neil Simon's comedy about a super patriot and her two boyfriends. The play will run next Wednesday through Saturday at 8:15 p.m. in Snell Hall. Tickets are \$1.

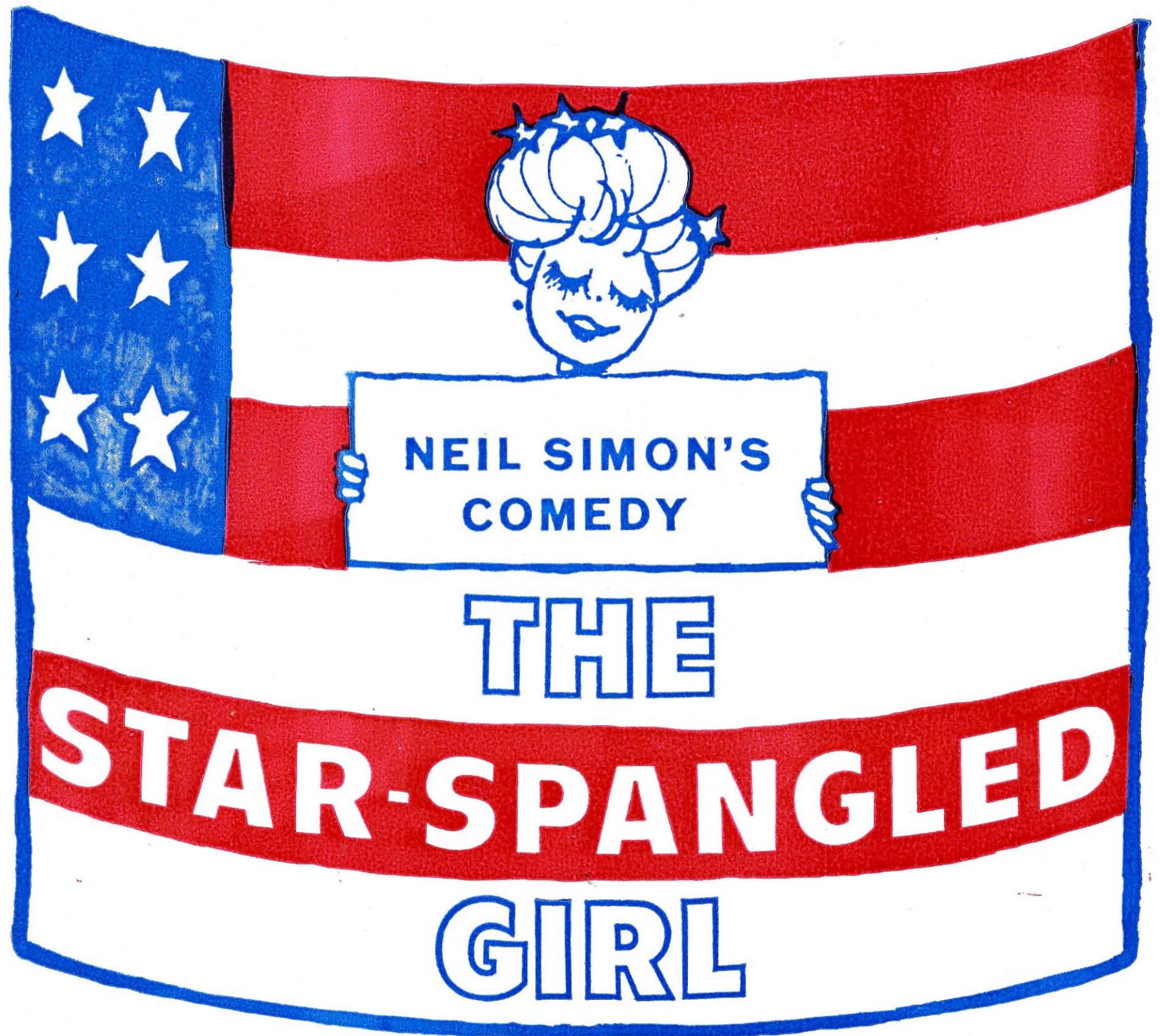






WESTERN PLAYERS PRESENT

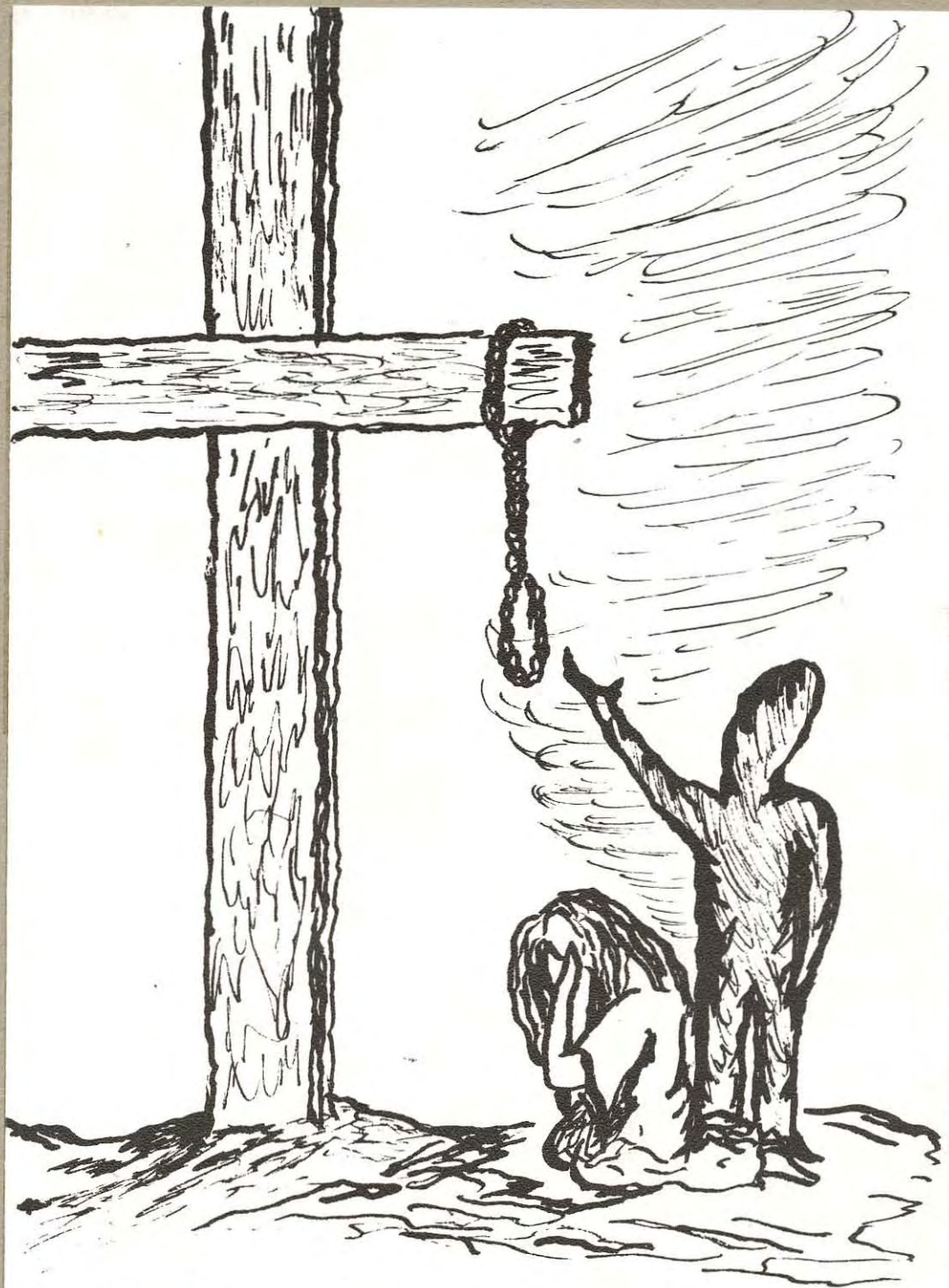
JANUARY 15-18 8:15 PM



SNELL HALL

\$1.00

"The Crucible"



The Crucible

by Arthur Miller

Players to present Miller's 'Crucible'

Nineteen men and women have been sent to the gallows on charges of witchcraft.

Though this may seem very unlikely, it did happen during the 17th century in Salem, Mass. We will be able to witness the hatred, hysteria and courtroom suspense associated with the Salem witch trials as Western Players presents Arthur Miller's "The Crucible."

Starring in the play are Judy Miller as Elizabeth Proctor and Bill Weathers as John Proctor. Also in the cast are Jim Warford, Bill Nelson, Linda Harris, Tom Fuller, Jeanette Winn, Bob Rutemiller, Jim Pickett, Shirlee Strother, Linda Smith, Pat Weaver, Steve Smith and LaDonna Ricketts.

"The Crucible" explores the roots of intolerance and mass hysteria. It tells the story of how a small lie can build until a whole town is aroused and 19 men and women go to the gallows for being possessed by the Devil.

The natural reaction of a person in trouble is to try to escape punishment even if this means falsely accusing someone else. This problem arises in "The Crucible" when some young girls try to seek an outlet from the strict Puritan Code by having secret dances in the woods at night. When discovered they escape punishment by saying that they are victims of the Devil, and they accuse several harmless women of witchcraft.

The central plot of the play concerns John Proctor, a farmer, and his wife Elizabeth and Abigail, the ringleader of the girls who accuse the women of witchcraft.

The presentation of "The Crucible" will be different from that of former productions. This time the play will be produced in "readers theatre." The term "readers theater" refers to actors sitting in a semi-circle reading a play and expressing it by means of voice, facial expressions and hand movements. Light is used to illuminate the actor when he reads his part.

"The Crucible" is billed for March 19-22. It will be under the direction of Bill Parsons, with James Brown as technical director.

'The Crucible'

Players to perform Miller play

Western Players' third major production, Arthur Miller's "The Crucible," is slated to open next week. Performances will begin at

8:15 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday in Room 103 of the student center.

Starring in the play are Judy Miller as Elizabeth Proctor and Bill Weathers as John Proctor. Supporting roles will be played by Jim Warford, Linda Harris, Tom Fuller, Bill Nelson, Jeanette Winn, Steve Smith, Shirlee Strother, Linda Smith, Jim Pickett, Pat Weaver, Bob Rutemiller and LaDonna Ricketts.

Produced in reader's theater, the play deals with the Salem witch trials. As the drama unfolds, a small lie causes so much hysteria that many innocent people are brought before the judge on charges of witchcraft.

In 17th Century Salem, people believed in witchcraft. They thought that evil persons often made pacts with the Devil. In this particular case some young girls were dis-

covered dancing in the woods at night. When one of them became ill they realized that they would be punished for breaking the strict Puritan code. At first Abigail, the ringleader of the girls, says that their servant made them drink blood and that she had put them under the power of the Devil.

The accusations continue until several people are charged with practicing witchcraft. After being mentally and physically tortured the victims are sent to the gallows. The whole town of Salem is finally caught up in a web of suspicion and fear.

Bill Parsons, of the speech and theater department will direct "The Crucible." James Brown of the same department will be in charge of the technical aspects of the play.

Tickets are \$1 and may be purchased at the door.



Salem witch trials come alive as players continue 'The Crucible'

By GAIL BARTON
Herald Arts Editor

A stirring, powerful play about one of the strangest and most infamous chapters in American history, "The

Crucible" opened last night.

Performances will resume tonight at 8:15 and will continue through Saturday in Room 103 of the student center.

"The Crucible" is a melodramatic re-telling of the historic witchcraft trials in Salem, Mass., in 1692. It tells how a quartet of young girls who are caught in a "sinful" pastime of dancing in a forest, hurl accusations of witchcraft at respectable members of a well meaning, but not too clear-headed community.

On the basis of this flimsy evidence scores of innocent people are brought to trial and condemned by prejudiced, fear-ridden authorities.

When it was first presented in New York in 1953 it became one of the most hotly discussed subjects of the time. This happened because it was not merely a historical play but clearly "a parable with a 20th century application" in the phrase used by the reviewer of Time Magazine.

The play began to be associated with the political heresies in the headlines of the day. At the end of the season it won the Antoinette Award (the "Tony") as the best play of the year.

"The Crucible" follows John and Elizabeth Proctor through their whole ordeal--their accusation, their arrest, their trial, the final opportunity for Proctor to save his life by confessing to something he knows is a lie and at last to the

gallows. The Proctors will be portrayed by Judy Miller and Bill Weathers.

Some of the other important characters will be Jeanette Winn as the mischief-making chief accuser Jim Warford as the deputy governor of the colony and Jim Pickett as Judge Hawthorne.

Tom Fuller plays the part of a mean-minded parson and Steve Smith plays the part of a clergyman who is horrified by the hatred that blaze up at the trial.

Also in the cast are Linda Harris, Bill Nelson, Pat Weaver, Bob Rutemiller, Linda Smith, Shirlee Strother and LaDonna Ricketts.

Shocking as this play may seem today, things like this did happen in Salem in 1692. The time was ripe for an explosion. After about 70 years of religious and civil omnipotence in the Massachusetts colony, the Puritan theocracy was breaking up.

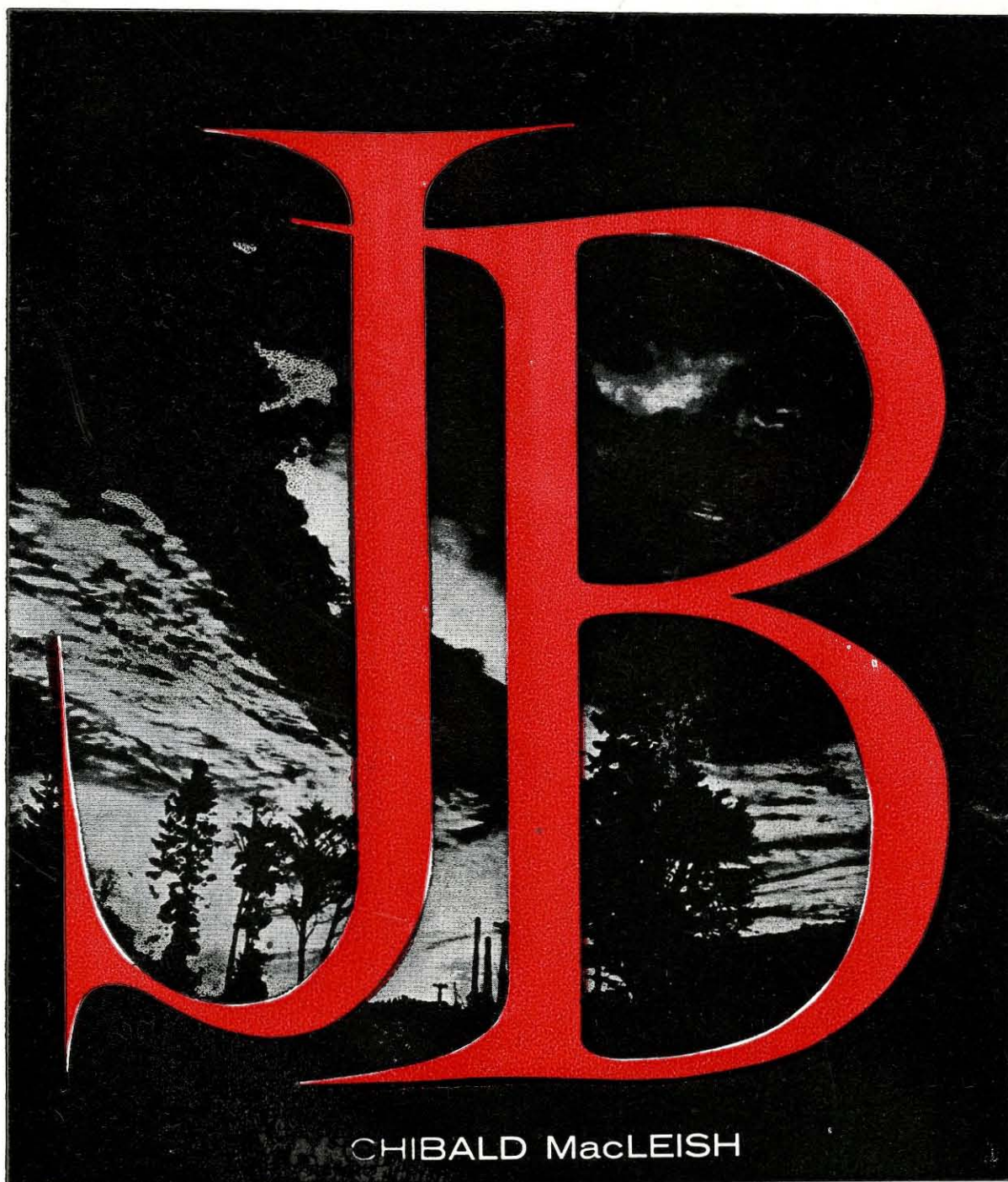
The nearer the theocracy came to its end, the more desperately it insisted on conformity. Everything was ready for the cruel frenzy that swept the town to the brink of self-destruction and came to a climax in the year covered by "The Crucible."

Playwright Arthur Miller has declared that "The Crucible" is not only an accurate account of the Salem

Witch-hunt that sent 19 men and women to death, but that every one of the characters in his play took a similar role in Salem in 1692.

He changed the ages of some of them, fused several into one and reduced the number of accusers to only four girls. Miller drew his story from the letters, the trial records and certain tracts written at the time which are still in the archives of Salem.

"The Crucible" is under the direction of Bill Parsons with technical direction by James Brown. Tickets are \$1 and may be purchased at the door.

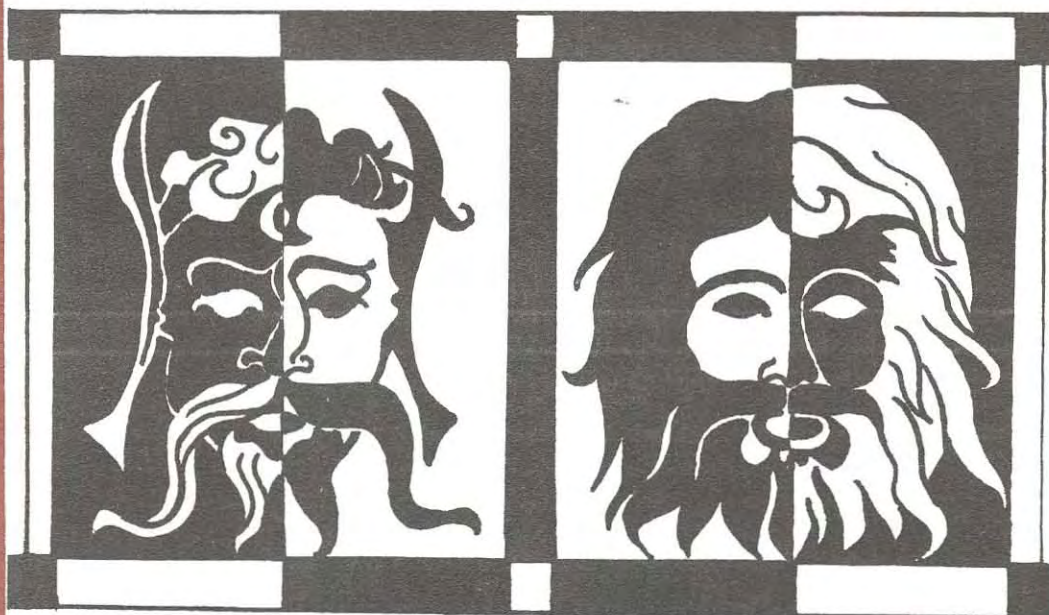


CHIBALD MacLEISH



JB

By
ARCHIBALD MACLEISH



Admit One

J. B.

THEATRE 100

General Admission \$1.00

May 14

8:15 p.m.

Admit One

J. B.

THEATRE 100

General Admission \$1.00

May 15

8:15 p.m.

Admit One

J. B.

THEATRE 100

General Admission \$1.00

May 16

8:15 p.m.

Admit One

J. B.

THEATRE 100

General Admission \$1.00

May 17

8:15 p.m.

Productions find new home in renovated Wilson Hall

By GAIL BARTON
Herald Arts Editor

Spring is a time for a change from old to new. This spring has certainly been a time for great change for the speech and theater department.

For the past year, this department has had no place to call home. Due to the state of construction on a new theater, the major productions were moved from the familiar setting in Van Meter Auditorium to Snell Hall. The last production, "The Crucible," had to be presented in the student center.

This spring the speech and theater department will have a new awakening as the theater begins its transfer to the new auditorium on the first floor of Gordon Wilson Hall.

Those students who had art history classes in the little theater of the former library will remember that it was a small dark room with a postage stamp stage at one end. The stage was used by student actors in presenting scenes for the acting classes.

The stage was high and the ceiling was low. An actor sometimes had the feeling that he was going to tilt forward and fall off into the laps of his fellow students who were in the audience. It required a great deal of imagination for the actor to pretend that he was in a palace in Greece or on an island off the coast of Venice as was sometimes required.

Now all of this has changed. When the audience enters the new theater in Gordon Wilson Hall on the opening night of "JB" they will find a new type of theater.

This new open stage theater has been named Theater 100 deriving its name from the number of the room itself. Because of its extreme flexibility and its intimate proximity to the audience it will be used for all types of productions--both major and studio. Its seating capacity will vary according to the kind of staging used. The approximate seating capacity is 200.

The forth-coming production of "JB" has been particularly designed for this large open stage. There is no curtain and the set will be in full view of the audience at all times. The additional stage platforms are being used on both sides' right and left with the audience in between.

Actors will enter and exit through the audience. All scene changes will take place in full view of the audience with designated characters making the necessary changes. This is not a contrived device for this production, but rather is provided for in the script itself.

Dr. Mildred Howard, director of

"JB," said: "I am very excited about the limitless prospects for directing in this open space theater. It allows for better production, getting us away from the picture frame concept of stage which has been in vogue since 1880 and provides infinite possibilities for all types of new staging."

Dr. Howard added, "It is an exciting stage on which to work because it breaks tradition with the past and challenges the director and the actors to find new and more exciting ways in which to work."

A grand opening for Theater 100 is slated for May 14.

JB

By
ARCHIBALD MACLEISH

'JB' slate prepares for modern Job story

By GAIL BARTON
Herald Arts Editor

Dr. Mildred Howard of the speech and theater department has announced the cast for "JB," the fourth major Western Players production of the year.

Approximately 50 people attended the tryouts last week. The cast was announced Friday.

Bill Weathers has been cast in the title role of JB--modern man's counterpart of the biblical character Job. His wife Sarah will be played by Judy Miller. Leo Burmester (Zuss) and Jim Warford (Nickles) will portray two circus vendors who represent God and Satan.

Others in the cast are Jim Pickett, Georgie Gidcumb, Sharon Warford, Bill Nelson, Tom Fuller, John David McCombs, Denise Casper, Steve Smith, Gary Fox, Jeanette Winn, Meg Coverdale, Phillip Thomason, Tammy Wilkins, Linda McKinley,

Morris Ricketts, Elizabeth (Wibby) Anderson and LaDonna Ricketts.

People have been interested in the biblical story of Job for over 3,000 years. Archibald Macleish retells this story in "JB" using verse that has the pulse of modern living.

When the play was first presented in New York in 1958, the critics characterized "JB" as one of the great landmarks in the history of American theater.

The play will be presented in the new theater of Gordon Wilson Hall May 14, 15, 16 and 17.

Tryouts set for 'JB'

All students and faculty members are invited to the tryouts for "JB" which will be held at 7 p.m. next Monday and Tuesday in Snell Hall Auditorium.

"JB" is a modern re-telling of the temptations and the sufferings of the Biblical character Job. The play was first produced at Yale University in April, 1958, and the first professional production of the play was given in December of the same year in New York.

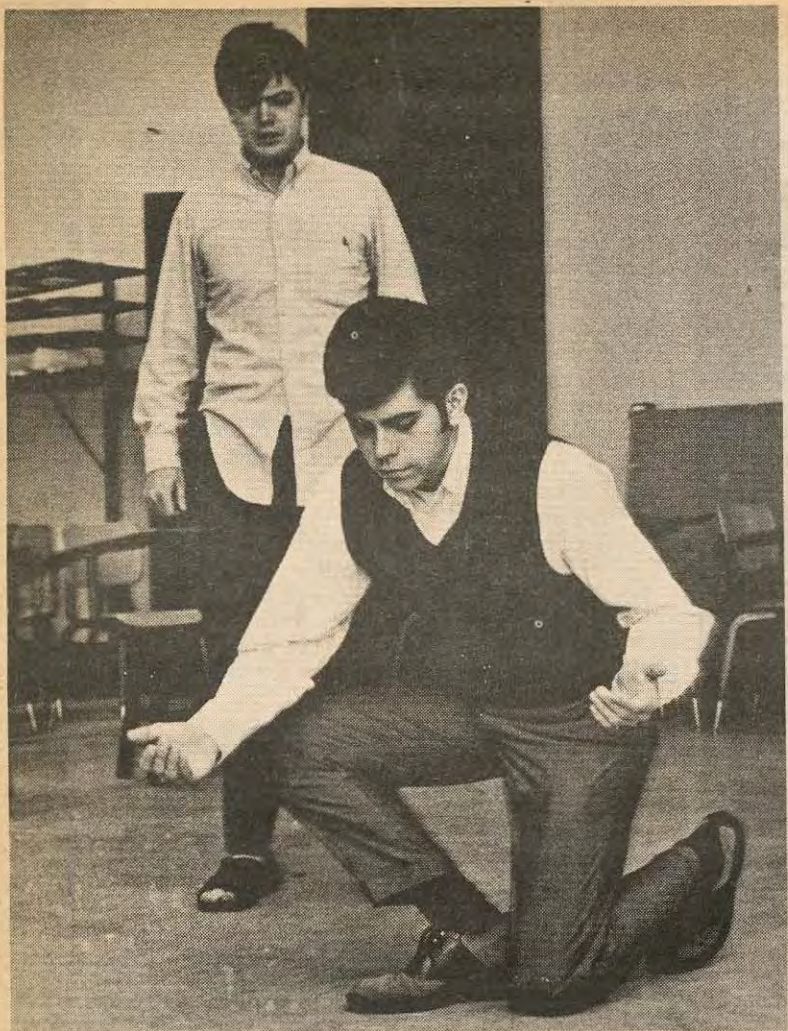
Raymond Massey played the part of the circus actor-vender who assumes the role of God. The lead role of JB, the modern business man who is a counterpart of Job, was played by Pat Hingle. Christopher Plummer played the part of Satan.

Author of the play, Archibald MacLeish is one of the most honored and respected literary men in America. He won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1932 and again in 1953 and for the third time as a playwright with "JB" in 1958.

"JB" has been selected as the play for the opening of the new theater in Gordon Wilson Hall. There is no curtain on the stage which allows for fluid staging.

A grand opening is scheduled for the play which is slated for May 14-17.

Dr. Mildred Howard of the speech and theater department is the director. She urges every one to try out for the play which consists of 21 parts.



REHEARSALS are continuing for Western Players fourth major production of the year, 'JB.' The play is an adaption of the Biblical tale of Job and will be the formal opening of Theater 100 in Gordon Wilson Hall. The cast includes (l to r) Jim Warford, Leo Burmester, Bill Weathers and Steve Smith.

(Photos by Paul Schuhmann)

'JB' director uses experience in drama

By GAIL BARTON
Herald Arts Editor

Directing calls for a great deal of knowledge and experience in the theatre such as that possessed by Dr. Mildred Howard, director of "JB."

Dr. Howard's interest in theater developed from her childhood desire to act. She first started acting as a child, and after graduation from high school, she entered a woman's college to study drama. However, since she had to play the boy's parts Dr. Howard left at the first opportunity to study theater at the University of North Carolina.

It was at this university that she became a member of the Carolina Playmakers. After touring nationally with this group, Dr. Howard returned to get her masters degree in dramatic art and later she got her Ph. D in theater from the University of Illinois.

Her knowledge of the theater was increased by professional acting. Dr. Howard worked three seasons in summer stock in New England. She also acted at the Pittsburgh Playhouse, a repertory company which was under the direction of Herbert V. Gellendre. This company stressed the famous Stanislavsky system of acting. She acted in such plays as "Blood Wedding," "You Can't Take it With You" and "The Cherry Orchard."

In addition to acting, she has directed varied types of plays such as "Thieves Carnival," "The Matchmaker" and "The Merchant of Venice."

Before coming to Western five years ago, Dr. Howard taught at the University of Missouri and at the University of Texas. She was also director of theater for two years at the American University of Cairo, Egypt. She is very proud of the fact that four of her theater students there have come to the United States to work on M.F.A. and Ph.D degrees in theater.

"JB" is a modern dramatized version of the Biblical story of

Job. Her direction on the play probably began when she first saw the production in New York in 1958. Dr. Howard chose the play because she believed that it would be a very interesting and theatrical production to open the new Theater 100.

Dr. Howard said that all of the characters in the play are interesting and challenging. Zuss and Nickles, the circus venders who open the play assume the roles of the God Mask and the Satan Mask. They actually speak lines from the Biblical story of Job. This calls for many levels of interpretation--going from broken down circus venders to the



Dr. Mildred Howard

pomp and satanic majesty of God and the Devil.

Since most modern plays are written in prose, one of the most difficult tasks in directing a play such as "JB" is finding actors who can read the verse well. During rehearsals, Dr. Howard has been very pleased to discover that the verse flows so freely that it is not presenting any great difficulty.

Dr. Howard believes that a thorough knowledge of playwriting, acting and knowledge of play structure are fundamental to play directing. She feels that the director must know how to analyze the script and how to guide the actor and train him to use his voice, body and imagination in his interpretation of character.

She went on to say, "The actor must be as true and faithful as possible to the text, to what the author has written. He should be historically correct as to time and place, but if he should chose to deviate from the original, he should not violate the playwright's original intention. Any departure should bring new life and meaning to the script, otherwise it is not valid."

"One of the things that I have discovered in the rehearsals of 'JB'," said Dr. Howard, "is that I like it more and more each time we rehearse. It increases in depth and meaning constantly."

"JB" is slated for 8:15 on May 14-17 in Theater 100 of Gordon Wilson Hall. General admission is \$1.

'JB' demands complex rehearsal

By GAIL BARTON
Herald Arts Editor

Western Players are now in the third week of rehearsals on the fourth major production of "JB."

Casting took place approximately a week before spring break. The auditions were unusually successful, and there were many good possibilities for the casting of the main characters. Because of this the director had to carefully consider the balance between characters and their voices and emotions.

The first rehearsal period consisted of individual work with the major characters. This individual work fell into three categories--improvisations, voice quality (which was necessary for certain characters) and line reading for interpretation.

Most modern plays are written in prose and since this play is written in verse it is unusually demanding in this respect.

The cast and crew, which consists of approximately 50 people, met for the first full production meeting last week. The purpose of this meeting was to explain to everyone the production plans and what each one is to contribute.

James Brown, technical director, explained the setting for the play. He also showed his model set for the circus-like interior with earth as the main ring and heaven on a platform above.

The Rev. Carl Peterson showed his sketches and clay models for the God Mask and Satan Mask which are worn at certain times by the circus vendors Nickels and Zuss.

The different crew heads explained the general plans and working schedules for the varied aspects of the production.

Shirlee Strother, who is in charge of costumes, arranged for the different members of the cast to bring the clothing that they had which would be suitable for the production. She told the old women in the chorus that their clothing had already been obtained from the Salvation Army. Though it is a costume play, none of the costumes are being ordered from New York as is customary. All the costumes are being assembled, chosen and made by students with the assistance of Mrs. Frances Dixon.

Steve Woodring explained the lighting for the show. The lighting is to be very dramatic and unusual. Steve, who designed the lighting for the show, said that since there was

no curtain on the new stage that lighting is to be of ultra importance.

Eddie Bryant, makeup head, told the cast that he plans to have makeup classes so that the actors can make themselves up for the character roles in the play.

The sound track has been ordered from New York by Bob Rute-miller who is in charge of sound. Nat Potter is in charge of set construction.

Other key members of the production staff are Grant Smith, stage manager; Paul Nemiroff, box office; LaDonna Ricketts, publicity; and Kathy Walters and Pat Reed, supervisors of house ushers.

At the present time the cast is rehearsing in the afternoon and at night. They are busy learning lines, blocking and getting ready to move into the new theater in Gordon Wilson Hall.



THE GOD-LIKE FIGURES of Zuss, portrayed by Leo Burmester, of Louisville, looks down from his platform at the situation of mankind during rehearsals.

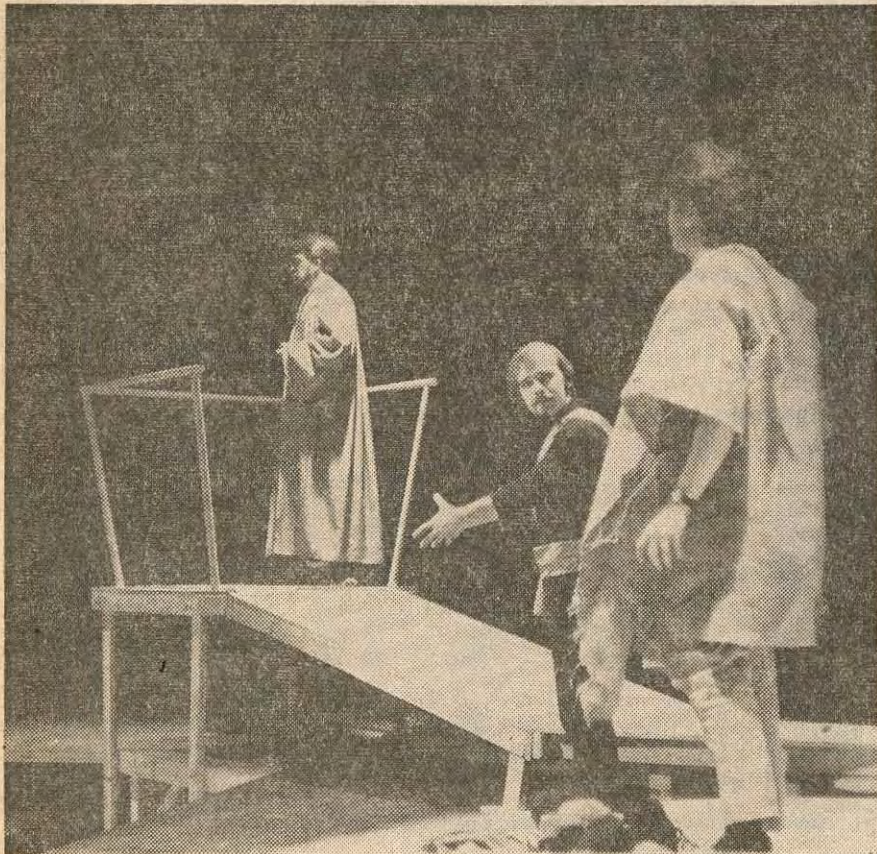
REGIONAL STAGE

Western's Theatre 100 to Open With 'J. B.'

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Western Kentucky University's new Theatre 100 opens this week with Archibald MacLeish's "J. B." The drama, a modern adaptation of the Book of Job, will be presented by the university's speech-and-theater department at 8:15 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. A preview performance Tuesday will formally open the new facility, an open-space intimate theater with a flexible seating arrangement.

Dr. Mildred Howard, professor of theater, has directed the opening produc-

tion. William Weathers will be seen in the title role. Other leading roles will be performed by Jim Warford, Leo Burmester, Judy Miller and Jim Puckett. Tickets are available for all performances.



Leo Burmester, left, Jim Warford and William Weathers rehearse a scene in "J. B.," Western Kentucky University Theatre 100 production chosen to open the new theater at 8:15 p.m. Wednesday.

JB

By
ARCHIBALD MACLEISH

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Gordon Wilson Hall

May 14, 15, 16, 17 - 8:15 p.m.

"J.B." To Be Presented In WKU's "Theatre 100"

After a year and a half of planning and construction, Western Kentucky University's new, open-stage "Theatre 100" will be opened formally Tuesday night with the premiere of Archibald MacLeish's Pulitzer Prize winning play, "J. B."

The new theatre, on the first floor of Gordon Wilson Hall (the old library), has a seating capacity of approximately 225 and will be used primarily by the university's speech and theatre department, headed by Randall Capps.

The theater, constructed by McBar contractors, was designed by architect Joseph P. Wilk, who tagged the project "Theatre 100," giving the theatre its name.

"J. B.", a modern adaption of the Book of Job, will be directed by Dr. Mildred Howard.

The MacLeish play incorporates drama and poetry and features the use of free verse and modern vernacular in portraying the classic Biblical story of Job.

J. B., played by William Weathers, is the "man who has everything," but who, at the peak of his successful life, loses all.

J. B.'s question of "Why?" and the answer written by MacLeish provide the play's dramatic highlight.

James L. Brown is technical director for the production, which begins with a scene inside a circus tent as the setting.

As the play opens, two old actors in the circus ring play the roles of God and Satan, depicting the forces that control man.

The opposing forces are

portrayed by actors Jim Warford and Leo Burmester.

Other major roles include those of Judy Miller, as J. B.'s wife, Sarah, and Jim Pickett, who plays the "Distant Voice."

The remaining members of the cast are Tom Fuller, Bill Nelson, John David McCombs, Linda Smith, Carolyn Barr, Sharon Wardord, Steve Smith, Gary Fox, Lynda McKinley, Phillip Thomason, Tammy Wilkins, Meg Coverdale, Morris Glen Ricketts, LaDonna Ricketts, Georgie Gidcumb, Denise Casper, Elizabeth Anderson and Jeannette Winn.

Formal invitations have been issued to an estimated 200 persons for the Tuesday evening premiere.

Production dates are May 14-17, with performances each night at 8:15.

Admission for the performances will be \$1, with reservations available from the university's speech and theater department.

'JB' begins Tuesday

Theater 100 to open with MacLeish play

By GAIL BARTON
Herald Arts Editor

The opening performance of Western Players fourth major production of "JB" will be presented at 8:15 p.m. next Wednesday in Theater 100 of Gordon Wilson Hall. Performances will continue through Saturday.

Starring in the play are Bill Weathers as JB and Judy Miller as his wife Sarah. Leo Burmester will play the part of Zuss, while Jim Warford is cast as Nickles.

Also in the cast are Jim Pickett, Georgie Gidcumb, Sharon Warford, Steve Smith, Tom Fuller, Carolyn Barr, Bill Nelson, Linda Smith, Denise Casper, Elizabeth Anderson, Jeanette Winn, Gary Fox, Tammy Wilkins, Meg Coverdale, Philip Thomason, Lynda McKinley, John David McCombs, Morris Glen Ricketts and LaDonna Ricketts.

Written by Archibald MacLeish, "JB" is a modern drama based on the Biblical story of Job. JB is the modern counterpart of Job, and the drama tests his fidelity to God in terms of twentieth century calamities. The story is set in a circus tent with an upper platform that represents heaven and a performing ring on the floor which represents earth.

God (Zuss) and Satan (Nickles) are played in masks by two circus vendors who were once actors. They decide to act out the story of Job themselves. Thus the story of modern Job is a play within a play.

In the first scene JB is a happy family man who is sitting down to a Thanksgiving dinner with his family. He believes himself close to God. JB is a man who has everything--a wife, children, home, health and security all of which he loses in the course of the play.

At the end after his sequence of ordeals God restores J.B.'s losses and Satan exclaims, "It can't be borne twice over, Can't be." God replies, "It is though. Time and again it is. Every blessed genera-

(Continued to Page 9)

MacLeish's 'JB' opens

(Continued from Page 1)
tion."

The solution to the play is that man will go on, picking up the pieces and beginning again and again.

"JB" is a highly personal play. Everyone can see in it his own experiences. It is written in sharply phrased verse. The Distant Voice quotes lines directly from the Book of Job. It is an impressive and moving drama.

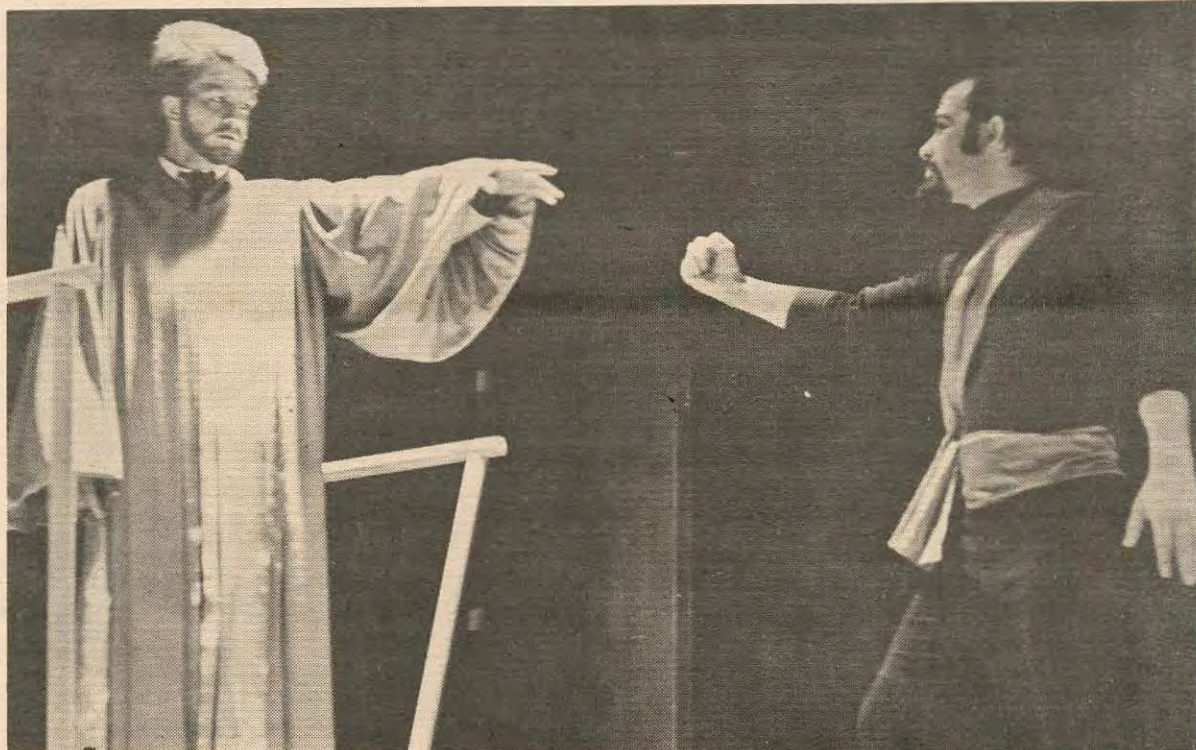
Archibald MacLeish's verse play was first presented at the Yale University Theater on April 22, 1958. Five months after the premiere on this campus, it was acted in the American Theatre at the

Brussels University and International Exposition. The play opened in New York in the December of 1958 and the following May, MacLeish was award the Pulitzer Prize for drama for this modern paraphrase of the ancient story.

"JB" has been performed many times in many countries in Germany, Italy, Scandinavia, Belgium, Israel and Mexico.

The play is under the direction of Dr. Mildred Howard with James Brown as set designer and technical director.

Reservations may be made by calling 745-3296 or writing the Speech and Theater Department.



GOD AND SATAN, in the forms of circus vendors, discuss man's fate in the drama 'JB', a modernization of the biblical story of Job. Western Players' fourth production will run Wednesday through Saturday at 8:15 p.m. in Theater 100 of Gordon Wilson Hall. Appearing in the play are Leo Burmester (1) and Jim Warford.



A Labor Of Love

Western Drama Students Work Hours Preparing Productions 'Because They Like Doing It'

By RON LAWRENCE

Daily News Special Writer

The Dr. Jeckel to Mr. Hyde transformation of college students into witches, princesses, gangsters or even divinities on Western's campus is no magic — it's the result of talent, make-up, costuming and long hours of work.

Young coeds deeply wrinkled and ashen-colored, actors arrayed in historic dress and all-night work sessions preparing sets, props and lights are all part of educational theater at Western.

For the student dramaticists the continuing plays are a habit in which they apply classroom instruction to the practical experience acting and technical production.

For the current production, Archibald MacLeish's "J.B.," the students have been spending three or four hours each night for several weeks rehearsing. Plus, many hours are spent learning lines and making numerous other

preparations of which many theater-goers are unaware.

"Many of the students just have an instinctive desire to bring a play to life," said Dr. Mildred Howard, director of "J.B." and professor of theater. "They do the work because they like it," she said.

Leo Burmester, senior theater major and veteran of Western theater, said, "Most students have no idea how much time is spent in preparing one production."

"It is common for one person to spend 200 man-hours working with a play, and it can easily amount to as much as 500 hours," he added.

Western's Speech and Theater Department presents four major productions each year, and at least six "experimental Theater" plays are presented by student directors as class projects.

The Experimental Theater productions usually are one-act plays presented by students in the theater practicum class.

"The objective is to allow a student to select, cast and direct a play," said Dr. Howard.

"It allows a student to combine what he has learned in the classroom and to use his own initiative to show how he thinks a play should be produced," Burmester said.

Various other theater classes participate in the plays by acting, working on lighting and sets, planning publicity campaigns and selling tickets.

But the participants are by no means limited to theater majors, and both actors and crew members come from a wide range of fields of study.

Of the four yearly major productions, the plays are selected to provide a mixture of both classic and contemporary drama. "We want the students to have an opportunity to see and work with all periods and types of drama," said Dr. Howard.

"We also want to present a varied bill which will interest all

members of the academic community," she said.

This year's productions have included "Liliom," the play which was the basis for the musical "Carrousel"; "Star-Spangled Girl," the comedy of an overly patriotic girl; "The Crucible," Arthur Miller's tragic drama of witch trials in colonial America; and the current play "J.B.," which is the contemporary drama of two circus vendors who decide to try an experiment based on the Biblical story of Job.

The production of J.B. marks the opening of the new studio theater in the renovated former library building. The building will be known as Gordon Wilson Hall.

After the current production Western theater enthusiasts will be setting their sights on the construction of the new fine arts building which will be constructed on the site of the former football field.

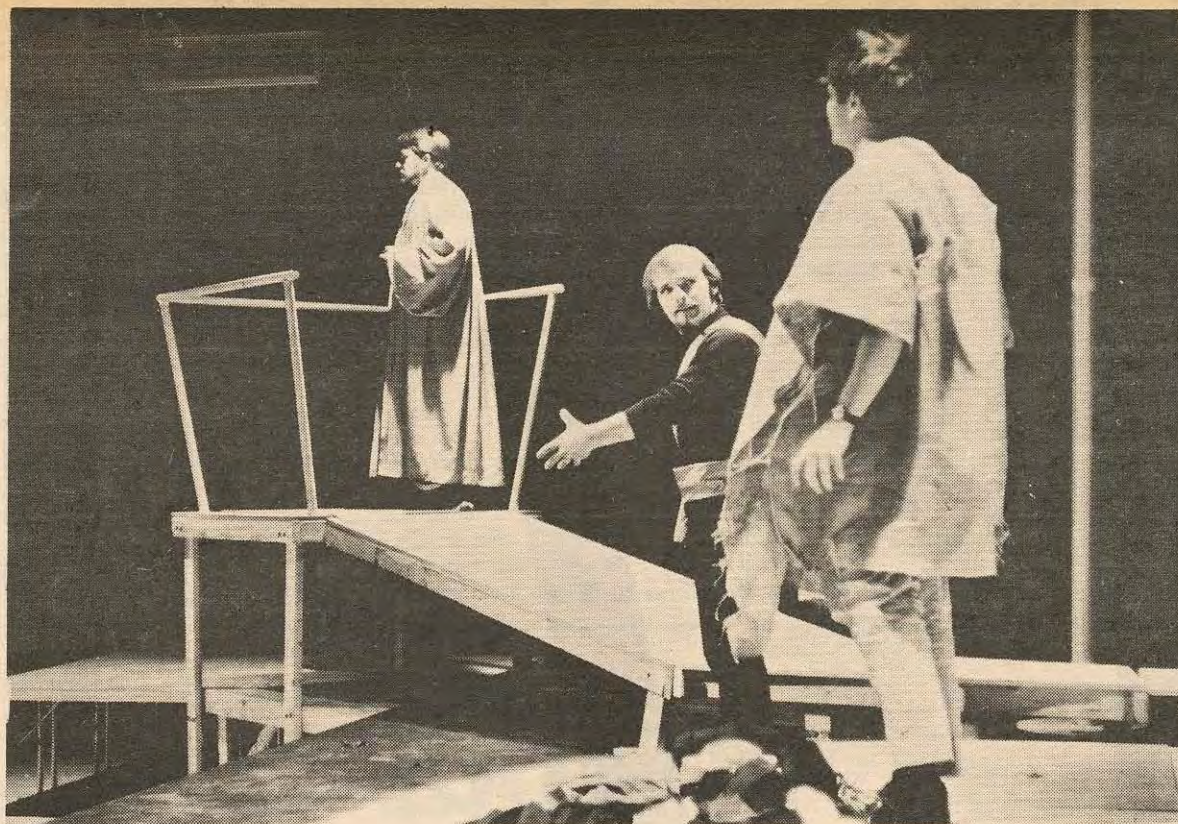


A FINAL REHEARSAL—Members of the cast are shown rehearsing their parts for sequence of the production. Those included in the picture are (left to right) Miss Meg Coverdale, Morris Ricketts, Miss Tammy Wilkins, Miss Judy Miller and Phillip Thomason, all of Bowling Green, and Miss Lynda McKinley, of Franklin.

'J.B.'

Photos by Bill Collins

DISPONDENT WANDERS—Two Western Kentucky University students, Miss LaDonna Ricketts (left), of Bowling Green, and Miss Denise Casper, of Louisville, Portray the wandering people of the world in the University's Speech and Theater Department's production of "J.B.," a play by Archibald MacLeish. The play, which is a modern version of the Biblical story of Job, will be the department's first production presented in their new playhouse, "Theater 100", located in the newly renovated Gordon Wilson Hall. The play, directed by Dr. Mildred Howard, will run from May 14-17. Curtain time is 8:15 p.m.



OPENING NIGHT FOR 'JB' meant more than usual for it was the first performance in the new Theater 100 in Gordon Wilson Hall. The drama, a modern tale of Job, will continue nightly through Saturday at 8:15 p.m. Admission is \$1. (Photo by Paul Schuhmann)

Theater 100 is christened with Tuesday opening of 'JB'

By GAIL BARTON
Herald Arts Editor

The glitter of jewels, evening wear and spot lights provided an excellent contrast against the rainy night as guests arrived for the premiere of "JB" in the new Theatre 100 of Gordon Wilson Hall.

Distinguished people from throughout the country attended this gala opening. Present were theatrical people, faculty members, town's people, former students and other invited guests. With the large number of people present it was not only a time for seeing a great

play, but also a time for chatting with former friends.

Following the play there was a reception, in an adjoining room. Many of the guests remarked that the premiere had all of the glamor and excitement of a Broadway opening.

However the guests were only seeing the finished product. They were probably not aware of the long hours of rehearsals and set construction that had gone into the making of this production.

There are many elements involved in the production of a major play such as "JB", however the technical aspects are one of the most important elements in any production.

James Brown, technical director of "JB" said, "It took approximately 45 crew members in order to create

the environment for the 23 actors who appear on stage."

"JB" has one of the most unique sets which has ever been seen at Western. The setting is an attempt to suggest a circus tent. In discussing the set with Dr. Mildred Howard, Brown said that they agreed to have as much open space as possible, to use as many different levels as possible and to suggest a circus tent--leaving the rest to the imagination of the audience.

After a combined total 35 hours of conference with the director, preparing working drawings and a scale model, Brown has designed a very symbolic set. The circus ring is used to represent earth, Zuss' perch represents heaven while Nickle's area at the opposite end, represents hades.

(Continued to Page 8)

(Continued from Page 1)

Lighting is one of the most important technical elements of this production. Steve Woodring, light designer, uses 43 different lighting instruments and 29 different lighting settings in this play. The lighting includes various areas and levels of light as well as different levels of color.

A number of specific scenes use wild colors and wierd shapes of light to suggest the action on stage.

In the past the light designer had only two light possibilities, but because of the facilities of the new Theater 100, he now has an infinite variety of possibilities. There are 80 lighting circuits located in the grid work of iron pipes which was situated above the stage and the auditorium.

Woodring says that the chief purposes of lighting in this production are to achieve composition in the overall stage area, to emphasize

different areas and to suggest mood through changes of color.

The prop mistress, Barbara Robinson, has prepared approximately 60 different props, including a real baked turkey. Brown said that each night after the play, they rush to put the turkey in the refrigerator. Everyone is keeping their fingers crossed that it doesn't spoil before Saturday night.

Grant Smith, who is referred to as "the man with headphones" is the stage manager. He is in complete charge of running the play during actual production.

Mrs. Francis Dixon, of the speech and theater department, and Shirlee Strother are in charge of costumes.

Performances of "JB" will resume at 8:15 tonight and will continue through Saturday in Theatre 100 of Gordon Wilson Hall. Reservations may be made by calling 745-3296 or writing the speech and theater department. Tickets are \$1.

THE SPEECH AND THEATRE DEPARTMENT
of
WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY
INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE FORMAL OPENING
of
THEATRE 100 AND THE PREVIEW PERFORMANCE
of
Archibald MacLeish's J. B.
IN GORDON WILSON HALL
Tuesday, May 13, 1969
8:15 p.m.
Reception following the performance in
Gordon Wilson Hall 105
Formal Dress
R.S.V.P. on enclosed card by May 6



FORMAL OPENING of Theater 100 include Tuesday night included the premiere of 'JB' and a reception. The first night performance was a formal affair for faculty, administrative staff and selected students.

(Photo by Wayne Scherr)

Theater christened

This production of

J. B.

directed by

MILDRED HOWARD

A review

'JB' intoxicates new theater

By
JOHN
LYNE



Western's new Theatre 100 saw its maiden performance last night in a formal preview of Archibald MacLeish's "JB." May it always have it so good.

The production of MacLeish's poetic drama was an intoxicating taste of modern theatre, which Theatre 100 is so well designed to accommodate. "JB" is a modern perspective on the biblical story of Job which comes to life in a circus ring at the command of a pair of circus vendors who assume the roles of God and Satan.

And come to life it did, as the bleak stage seemed to become the focus of an immense cosmic drama.

Jim Warford, the Nickles, the popcorn peddler turned Satan, is supremely satanic and perfect in the part. His cat-like movements, facial and vocal characterization are a theatrical feast. This has to be one of the finest pieces of acting ever seen on the hill. Leo Burmester as Zuss (balloon salesman become God) is awesome. He fairly drips with the authority to command. A major asset is his strongly projected voice, which fills the room. The dialogues of the dynamic duo, sometimes from behind impressive Greek masks, is superb.

Zuss and Nickles seem to be prodded by an outside force to enact the story of Job. JB (Job) is first seen in a joyful family setting. He is a man who has everything--wealth, family, health and happiness. And he is grateful that "God is on his side." Gradually he loses all he has, including all his children in assorted tragedies: all except his own life. Throughout he remains faithful to God, asking only to know his guilt. His despair is heightened when, abandoned even by his wife, he seeks solace with false "comforters."

Bill Weathers is excellent as JB. His portrayal embodies many subtleties which give it a great deal of credibility. He comes across strongly as the truly righteous man. The demanding role of his wife is sustained well by Judy Miller. Between the two are played some tormenting scenes.

In "JB" MacLeish has beautifully integrated poetry with the theater. "JB" is theater from the word go--not dramatic in all points--but deliciously theatrical. It is poetic by its very nature. Could man's quest for an understanding of his meaning and his God be played in a circus tent without being poetic?

Through such devices as the Greek god-masks the drama established itself as a connotative distillation of dialogue and image. Many a poetic phrase clings to the mind. Poetic flow is of great importance. This is illustrated by MacLeish's refusal to let the play become emotionally spent in the course of JB's progressive suffering. As JB and his wife are repeatedly informed of family tragedy, they do not indulge in extreme reactions. Mr. Weathers' and Miss Miller's reactions did not go much

beyond a cold stunned effect and hints from off stage of the normal displays of anguish. The flow could not be bogged down as the age-old story again told itself. The tragic course became absurdly meaningless under the leer of Nickles and a dissonant musical background. So it is not the potential drama of each tragedy which is developed. MacLeish saves the players' energy to focus on the big question at hand.

What is JB up against? Suffering without guilt, a God who demands submission without understanding, an inability to know the "why" of his miserable existence. He has the alternatives of submitting blindly and admitting a guilt which he does not see or (in Nickles' words) "to reject all of creation with a stale pink pill."

One becomes suspicious and dismayed by the overly-pious "God" who demands JB's supplication. He seems less sympathetic with, perhaps even less loving of man than does "Satan." Nickles at least feels the pain and despair of men. He offers the rejection of life not as "evil for evil's sake" but as what is man's only reasonable course. The mask of Nickles has tasted "something as bitter as a broth of blood." This Satan is a pitiable, understandable character. He speaks of the suffering that men know.

But what of this "God" who plays on the fears of what men do not know? Is he to be JB's only alternative? Zuss gives himself away when, near the last, he proudly proclaims that Job does not repent for love of God but for fear of God. At last the true nature of what Zuss is portraying comes clear and it becomes apparent that JB is prostituting his human spirit in yielding to him. Zuss upholds his end of the bargain by returning all to JB.

Then in the last all is vindicated. JB will no longer bow before the thunder-wielding god of blind fear, but affirms faith in an infinitely greater, truer god, the God of Love. He rejects both Zuss and Nickles. His returning wife rekindles his desire to live and love. This is Job's truth: that man will continue

(Continued to Page 12)

'JB' review

(Continued from Page 11)

to reaffirm life; that with all the suffering for which there is no knowable reason, there is love, making it all worth taking. Job's love and renewed life sprout, in MacLeish's symbolism, as a green twig among the ashes.

Though the performance had slight weak spots, the high spots overshadowed them. One highlight came in a scene between JB and four well-cast "comforters." Another was when a group of wretched old hags injected an eerie quality into the drama. (Their singing voices, however, sounded unfittingly young and sweet.) Staging and rather complicated lighting effects were well executed to bring out "JB's" best theatrical qualities. (What lighting equipment Theatre 100 has!)

"JB" is a thoroughly engrossing, beautifully poetic play. To see it so well performed at Western is a thrill which should not be missed.





Photo by Bill Collins

REHEARSALS ARE UNDERWAY for the Western Experimental Theater's first production of the year, Jean Giraudoux's 'The Tpollo of Bellac.' The play, which is directed by Rachel Roop, will be at 8 p.m. Oct. 24 and 25 in Room 204 of the student center.

WESTERN EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE
PRESENTS

THE APOLLO OF BELLAC



BY
JEAN GIRAUDOUX

Tonight- 'Apollo' opens

The Western Experimental Theater will present Jean Giraudoux's "The Apollo of Bellac" as its first production of the year tonight and Friday night at 7:30 in the student center, Room 204.

The play will be directed by Rachel Roop, a senior drama and English major, and will star Teddi Lane as Agnes and Joe Allen as the man who shows her how to win the hearts of all men. George Solley will play the president of the corporation with which Agnes attempts to get a job, and Georgie Gidcumb will play the clerk. Also performing will be Tom Malcolm, Mike Miller, Dan Proffitt, Dan Selers, John Roop and Mike Schultz.

Western Players' regular meeting will follow the production. Refreshments will be served.



The All-Stars of the Week



Photo by Paul Schuhmann

A STUDY IN EXISTENTIAL PHILOSOPHY continued as the Experimental Theater presents "No Exit" tonight and tomorrow night at 8 in the Catacombs in Newman Hall. The drama is directed by Leo Burmester and stars (l to r) Suse French, Tim McGauhey and, not pictured, Lisa Ray, BROWN'S All-stars of the week.

'No Exit' Wednesday

Experimetal theater presents Sartre's exploration of Hell

By GAIL BARTON
Herald Staff Writer

Three people are condemned to eternal damnation in the Experimental Theater production of Jean Paul Sartre's "No Exit."

Billed for next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in the Snell Hall Auditorium at 8:15 p.m., the play stars Tim McGauhey, Suse French, Lisa Ray and Steve Woodring.

Leo Burmester, senior speech and drama major from Louisville, will direct the play.

"No Exit" is mainly concerned with Sartre's existential philosophy. This theory stresses the individual's responsibility for making himself what he is. Man creates his own world and he helps to shape the world for others.

The setting of the play is in Hell—not the typical Hell where

one is tortured with fire and pitchforks — but a one-room Hell from which there is no exit.

The first person to arrive in Hell is a coward who has been executed because he collaborated with the Nazis. He is joined by an adultress who has murdered her illegitimate child, showed no concern when her lover committed suicide and wondered why no one showed any pity when she died of pneumonia.

The other arrival is a lesbian who had lured her cousin's wife away from him, after which he killed himself and the lesbian committed suicide with gas.

Condemned to spend the rest of their lives in a single room, the three lost souls develop into a complex triangle in which one plays on the other's weakness. The lesbian cannot have the woman, the woman cannot have the man because he needs

someone to convince him that he is not a coward.

They cannot escape their sins and must be eternally damned by the torture of being in each other's company. This realization of fate becomes the punishment of Hell. There is no exit from one's own mind. As one of the characters puts it, "Hell is other people."

"No Exit" ("Huis Clos" in the French original) was the first Sartre play to be produced in America. The play opened in 1946 in New York and at the end of the season critics voted it the best foreign play of the year.

Brooks Athinson, drama critic for *The New York Times*, seemed to be summarizing the basic meaning of the play when he said, "Man is alone in this world; he is responsible to his own will and decision; no one can save him from himself."

Admission is free.



Photo by Bob Bowen
BILL NALLY (L.), TOM FULLER AND SHIRLEY STROTHER are busy rehearsing for 'Box and Cox' the next production of the Experimental Theater to be presented in Snell Hall Auditorium Monday and Tuesday. The slapstick comedy centers around two men who unknowingly rent the same room from a coniving landlady.

'Box, Cox' opens Monday as theater's third play

Nineteenth-century London provides the background for the Experimental Theater production of John Morton's "Box and Cox."

The English comedy is billed for Monday and Tuesday at 8:15 p.m. in Snell Hall Auditorium. Admission is free.

Starring in the play are Bill Nalley as Box, Tom Fuller as Cox and Shirlee Strother as Mrs. Bouncer. The play is under the direction of Linda Spurlock.

There are many ways of making money, and perhaps one of the best ways is by collecting double rent on a room. A landlady rents the same room to two men; one is a hatter who works during the day and the other is a printer who works at night.

For a while her luck holds out since the two men never meet except on the stairs. However, her luck changes when Cox comes home early one day and finds Box in his room. After shouting at each other for a while they begin a conversation in which they discover that they have more in common than sharing the same room.



'Sandburg' and 'Lesson'

Two studio productions set

Two studio productions--"The World of Carl Sandburg" and "The Lesson"--will be presented within the span of one week.

"The World of Carl Sandburg" is slated for 8:15 p.m. March 27-28 in the Catacombs.

The production will resemble readers theater in that the actors appear on stage as themselves while giving an interpretation of the selections.

Sandburg's poetry reflects the beauty and the roughness of the American nation. His first poems shocked many people. Sandburg wrote in the language of the Midwest--in verse without any rhyme. He wrote about hoboes, farmhands and working people. In 1951, Sandburg received the Pulitzer Prize for his "Complete Poems."

Director Leo Burmester has selected cuttings which gives Sandburg's views on babies, youth, old age and war.

Starring in the production are John David McCombs, Elizabeth Anderson and Dan Lynch. Lynch will sing songs from "The American Songbag."

Eugene Ionesco's "The Lesson" will be presented at 8:15 p.m. March

31 and April 1 in Snell Hall Auditorium.

The cast consists of Georgie Gidcumb, Jim Warford and Carolyn Barr.

Neither psychology or philosophy is likely to explain "The Lesson." At first it appears to be a satire on young ignorance, but as the arithmetic lesson continues the speeches touch more than just the learning process.

Many questions are presented such as: What happened to the 39 bodies? Why isn't the town alarmed at their disappearance? However, the answers are not forthcoming.

Ionesco is well known as a writer in the "theater of the absurd." "The Lesson" embodies his conviction that "comic and tragic are merely two aspects of the same situation."

Steve Woodring is the director in charge.

Admission to the studio productions is free.

Studio Productions lists semester fare headed by 'Sandburg'

The Studio Productions have already been chosen for the semester.

The first production will be "The World of Carl Sandburg" which is to be directed by Leo Burmester on March 27-28. It is in the process of being cast.

Steve Woodring will direct the second production which is to be "The Lesson" by Eugene Ionesco. Included in the cast are Jim Warford, Gerogia Gidcumb and Carolyn Barr. "The Lesson" is billed for March 31 and April 1.

"Before Breakfast" will be the third production. It will be presented some time during the first part of April. Lisa Ray, the director, has not cast the play.





Photo by Wayne Scherr

"THE LESSON," a play about a simple-minded student and her professor, will be presented Monday and Tuesday evening at 8:15 in Snell Hall Auditorium. The satire stars Georgie Gidcumb (left), Jim Warford and Carolyn Barr. Admission is free.

'World of Carl Sandburg' continues, Ionesco's 'Lesson' to open Monday

By GAIL BARTON
Herald Arts Editor

"The World of Carl Sandburg" will continue at 8:15 tonight in the Catacombs. The debut was last night.

Sandburg is considered one of the most remarkable poets who has ever lived. He wrote about America and her people. Sandburg called Chicago "Hog Butcher for the World." In addition to writing poetry, he also wrote a biography of Abraham Lincoln for which he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize. He also became a collector of American folk songs.

Director Leo Burmester has selected works which best represent Sandburg's views on such things as babies, youth, old age and war. Burmester presents his play in such a way that one will be able to almost feel the presence of Sandburg. The selections which Burmester has made contain some of Sandburg's best poetry and songs.

Starring in the production are John David McCombs, Dan Lynch and Elizabeth Anderson.

Are you prepared for "The Lesson"?

This play will be presented at 8:15 next Monday and Tuesday in Snell Hall Auditorium.

"The Lesson" was first produced in Paris in 1951. It neither seeks to please or instruct, but instead it reflects reality in a shattered mirror.

The play is about a simple-minded student and a professor. The opening speeches between the professor and the student seem to offer nothing more than a satirical farce on young ignorance. As the arithmetic lesson proceeds, the satire grows more hilarious. Though it is an extremely funny play, suspense is not eliminated. Perhaps because of the comic nature of the play, one will not be prepared for the shocking ending.

Eugene Ionesco once said of man that "by revealing his absurdity one can achieve a sort of tragedy."

Director of the play, Steve Wood-

ring, has designed both the scenery and lighting for the play. He has experimented freely with the script resulting in one of the most unusual productions which has been presented at Western. He has given an even more absurd meaning to the play with the unrealistic setting of black and white.

One of the biggest hits of last year was Ionesco's "The Bald Soprano." It played twice each night to a packed house and many students still had to be turned away because of the tremendous response to the play. Commenting on "The Lesson," Woodring said: "It is a funny play and it will perhaps have a much greater impact on the audience than "The Bald Soprano."

Starring in the play are Jim Warford, Georgie Gidcumb and Carolyn Barr.

Jim Warford said this about "The Lesson": "The play is a tremendous challenge to any actor. The part of the professor is one of the most difficult roles that I have had to play. I go from a mousey little man to a raving fanatic by the end of the play."

Both studio productions--"The World of Carl Sandburg" and "The Lesson"--have been selected to head the bill for studio productions this semester. Admission to both is free.



Photo by Dann Cann

WHETHER TEACHING, ACTING OR DIRECTING Bill Parsons is trying to communicate. Parsons hopes to build a theater audience at Western by presenting plays of quality, such as the highly successful "Star Spangled Girl."

Studio productions set two plays next week

There will be two studio productions--"Supressed Desires" and "Before Breakfast"--at 8:15 p.m. next Wednesday and Thursday in Snell Hall Auditorium.

The first play, "Supressed Desires," will be directed by Lisa Ray. Written by Eugene O'Neill, the play is about a nagging wife who is talking to her husband who is in the next room. The suspense drama has only one character. Starring in the production is Jan Funk, a University High senior.

Jan has appeared in a number of Alley Playhouse productions. She was most recently seen in the summer theater production of "The

Fugitive Kind."

Lisa has worked with Western Players and the studio productions for the past four years. She has been in such plays as "No Exit," "Life With Father" and "West Side Story." Last year she directed the studio production of "Becket."

The second show on the bill will be Susan Glaspell's "Before Breakfast." Linda Smith, Linda McKinley and Joe Lindsey will star in the production. The play deals with a wife who is on a psycho-analysis kick.

The play is directed by Lonnie Jackson. This will be the first play Jackson has directed, but he has appeared in many Western Player productions such as "The Taming of the Shrew" and "The Fugitive Kind."

Admission to both studio productions is free.

Parsons tries to communicate in any theatrical role

By BRUCE TUCKER
Herald Staff Writer

Whether stalking the stage as an actor, extracting a performance from another actor as a director, or demonstrating make-up technique as a teacher Bill Parsons is trying to communicate. And to him, communication is the most gratifying aspect of the theater.

His communication in the classroom is as effective as it is histrionic. He can instantly assume the role of a character from whatever play he is discussing and by reciting the lines demonstrate to his students the rich language of drama. Or he can expertly apply make-up to the face of a pretty young girl and make her appear old and haggard, graphically illustrating the technician's art.

As an actor he has played roles that run the gamut: Brutus in "Julius Caesar," Organ in "Tartuffe" and John Proctor in "The Crucible." Locally, he played Goldberg in the "absurdist" drama, "The Birthday Party." His performance as Goldberg was at once subtle and powerful, illuminating a play that borders on the esoteric.

But his most famous part is the title role that he originated in the "Book of Job." The play was so successful that in 1958 it toured extensively with Parsons playing to audiences in Canada, England and at the World's Fair in Brussels.

Parsons describes "Book of Job" as "fantastic to look at." It is taken straight from scripture and includes choral speaking like that found in ancient Greek plays. It still plays every summer at Pine Mountain State Park.

Parsons had always been interested in the theater and he, like many people who enter a field that

requires dedication, was first encouraged by a teacher. He was an undergraduate at Georgetown, enrolled in an oral interpretation class, when his instructor persuaded him to try out for a play. He did and liked it so well that he has been in the theater ever since.

Now in his first year at Western, he has directed the comedy "Star-Spangled Girl," which played to packed houses, something of a phenomenon at Western. He called the response to "Star-Spangled Girl" "very gratifying." In the future he hopes to build a theater audience here by presenting plays of quality that will demand attendance.

He said, "There is nothing like live theater--the thrill of watching a live performance. If people would only come to a play, they would get enthused."

Parsons will direct "The Crucible," the next production of the Western Players, March 19-27. Next fall he hopes to do a musical.

He graduated from Georgetown in 1955 with a B.A. in speech-theater and history. He received his masters from Louisiana State University where he is now a doctoral candidate. He has taught at Mississippi College, Memphis State University and Louisiana State where he was technical director of the theater there, and at Kentucky Southern where he was chairman of the speech and theater department.

He likes Western and Bowling Green, the "friendliness and the lack of pretentiousness." He plans to stay in teaching and to act occasionally "to keep my wits about me," he said. But whatever he does--as an actor, director, or teacher--it will be an effort to communicate through the medium he loves.

Two studio plays continue tonight

Studio Theater opened last night with two plays--"Supressed Desires" and "Before Breakfast." Performances will continue at 8:15 tonight in Snell Hall Auditorium.

An unusual suspense drama opens the evening of theatrical entertainment. The play -- "Supressed Desires"--contains only one character, who is a nagging wife. She is in the living room carrying on a conversation with her husband who is in the bathroom shaving. His hand is only shown once in the drama. Though the play was written by Eugene O'Neill, it has all the suspense of a Hitchcock play. Starring in the play is Jan Funk, a University High senior. The play is directed by Lisa Ray.

As a relief from the suspense, the second play on the bill is a comedy entitled "Before Breakfast." It seems that sooner or later everyone gets on a particular kick at some time during their life. However, when one's wife is on a psychoanalysis kick, there are usually several complications. Starring in the play are Linda Smith, Linda McKinley and Joe Lindsey. The play is under the direction of Lonnie Jackson.

Admission to both productions is free.



TWO PRODUCTIONS by the Studio Theater 'Before Breakfast' and 'Supressed Desires' will continue tonight in Snell Hall. The plays begin at 8 p.m. and admission is free.

Photos by Drex Rixmann and James Wallace

'Desires' and 'Breakfast' rank highly

By BARNEY BULL

Eugene O'Neil's "Before Breakfast" and "Suppressed Desires" by Susan Glaspell were well executed in the fifth and sixth Studio Productions of the semester offered in a double presentation April 23 and 24.

In "Before Breakfast," Jan Funk, a University High senior, portrayed a wife who carried on a rather one-sided dialogue with her husband. In fact, the husband made no reply at all during the conversation.

The action was sustained remarkably well for fifteen minutes as the wife alternately directed dispirited remarks and shrill beratement at her husband in the adjoining bedroom. The effect was accented by the drab kitchen complete with ironing board and red and white checked tablecloth.

At last the falling arm of her husband through the doorway as she swept back the door demonstrated that her husband had cut his wrist during her last comments.

Lonnie Jackson was effective as the Hand.

"Suppressed Desires," despite its imposing title, was a offering developed by Joe Lindsey, Linda Smith and Linda McKinley in the roles of Stephen Brewster, Henrietta Brewster and Mable. In an intricate bit of nonsense, the popular-unpopular with those in the field of psychology-misconceptions of psychoanalysis were explored and carried to their logical conclusion.

Linda McKinley portrayed an unassuming housewife well.

STUDIO THEATRE PRESENTS:

Eugene Ionesco's

THE LESSON

Directed

by

Steve Woodring

CAST

Professor-----Jim Warford

Pupil-----Georgie Gidcumb

Maid-----Carolyn Barr

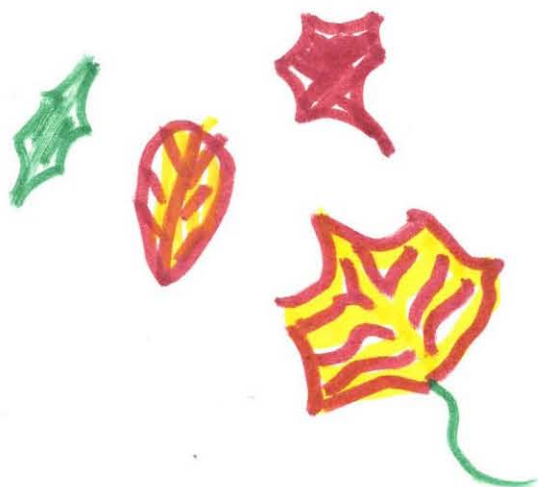
Place

The professor's office-apartment, in a small town.

Time

The Present.

"The
hottiest
Afternoon
of the
Year"





other

Attractions

of the

YEAR

Western Players Open House

October 3, 1968





Photo by Gary Hunt
RENOVATION AND MODERNIZATION of Van Meter Auditorium, pictured here, and the former library building is scheduled to be completed next fall. The buildings will house the recently created speech and theater department. Van Meter renovations include an orchestra pit, new seating facilities, additional dressing rooms and stage accommodations.



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SOCIETY—REALESTATE
SUNDAY, MAY 11, 1969 PAGE 17

Renovation Of Van Meter Auditorium Nears Finish

By RICK NEUMAYER, Daily News Staff Writer

Enter through the massive stone columns into the outer vestibule as a carpenter skillfully manipulates hammer and chisel. Observe coverall-clad painters spray black iron railings. Dodge as electricians string wire. Witness the rebirth of a theater.

It is Van Meter Auditorium, the ancient stone and brick structure located near Cherry Hall on the Western Kentucky University campus, which is undergoing corrective surgery.

There are no seats on the main floor yet, and the enlarged stage is not complete. Still, workmen "are putting the finishing touches" on the three-story building, according to Western's dean of public affairs and public relations, Robert G. Cochran.

A completion date remains uncertain, however.

"We know it's going to be completed this summer, but exactly when nobody knows," Cochran said.

Remodeling the auditorium began about one year ago. McBar

Construction Co. of Bowling Green submitted the low bid of \$797,702 for both the Van Meter and Gordon Wilson Hall face-lift projects. Wilson Hall, which was formerly a library, now houses the Speech and Theater Departments.

Construction began shortly after the bid was made last April 4. Van Meter will seat about 1,600 when reorganizations are completed, Cochran said.

Among the improvements being made at the auditorium are:

—New lighting and expansion of the stage.

—Installation of a new ventilating system for the entire building.

—New dressing rooms for performers.

—An area for construction of stage sets.

—New lighting and air conditioning systems for all offices located in Van Meter.

Decor for the auditorium seeks to give it an appearance of

freshness. Beige tile flooring and beige walls with brown wooden trim forms the basic color pattern.

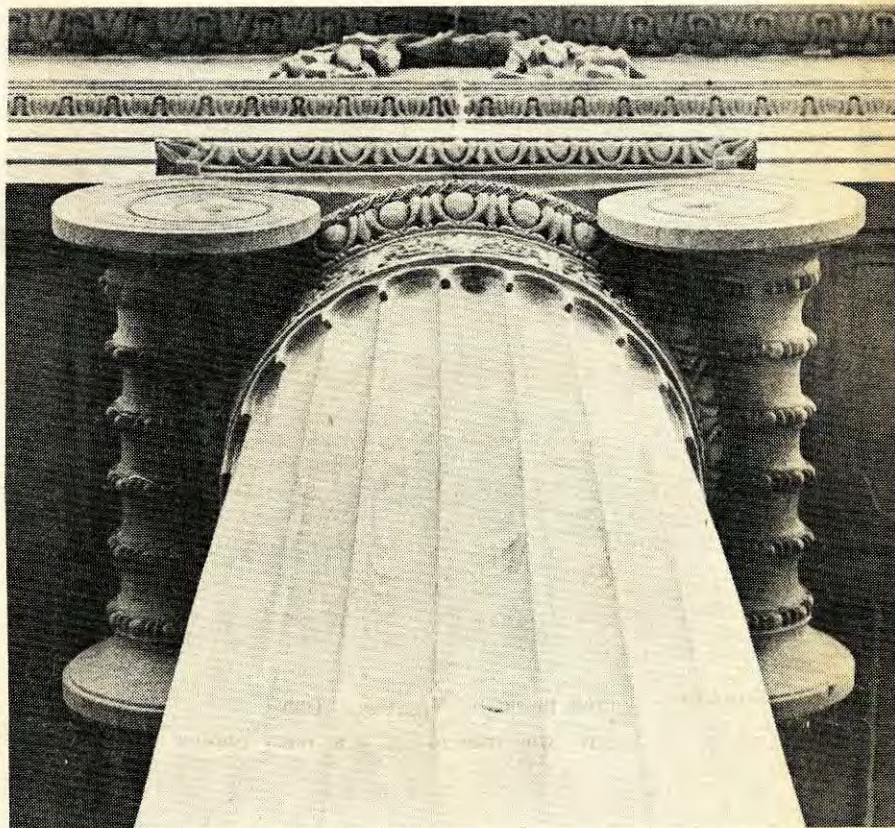
The balcony area remains virtually unchanged, except for the addition of a box-like cage structure for lighting equipment and operators.

No activities are scheduled for Van Meter until the fall, unless it can be made ready in time for the University High graduation and Western's associate degree ceremony, Cochran said.

"Just about all the events held in the student center ballroom over the past year will be transferred back to Van Meter eventually," he continued.

These would include the Community Concert series, plays, small meetings for off-campus groups, band concerts and major university theatrical productions.

In addition, some of the freshman assembly meetings may be channeled from Diddle Arena.



AMONG THE OFFERINGS of the renovated structure will be the Community Concert series. Although newly-painted, wired and remodeled, Van Meter retains its classic beauty.

(Daily News Photos by R. D. Firkins)



STATELY VANMETER Auditorium is being refurnished to allow for more and improved productions, concerts and meetings.

Presents Emotional Drama

Alley Playhouse To Open Season

By SUZANNE GATEREDAM

Daily News Women's Editor

"A shocking surprise" are the words used by director Edward Lee to describe this season's opening performance at the Alley Playhouse in Morris Alley.

* * *

The performance, entitled "The Birthday Party" will open at 8:15 p.m. Friday, with other performances scheduled for Nov. 16, 21, 22 and 23. All performances will begin at 8:15 p.m.

The play, written by Harold Pinter, consists of three acts, all performed on one set. The performance appeared last year on Broadway.

"It's difficult to describe the play," says Lee, who, aside

from directing the play, will also play the part of a major character, "because the main action takes place in the form of a psychological build-up and break-down.

"Basically, he continues," the plot centers around an English artist and his one-day experience in an English, seaside boarding house.

"I believe it is really different from anything anyone in this area has seen," the director says.

Not recommended for children, the play is a type of black comedy, with the audience becoming emotionally involved in the actions of the characters.

Through the course of the play, the main character, Stanley, is engaged in a game of mental and emotional cruelty by the owners and tenants of the boarding house.

Lee, who plays the part of Stanley, has spent four years with the Repertory Theater, in Atlanta, and served for four summers as both a director and an actor with the Southeastern Shakespeare Festival.

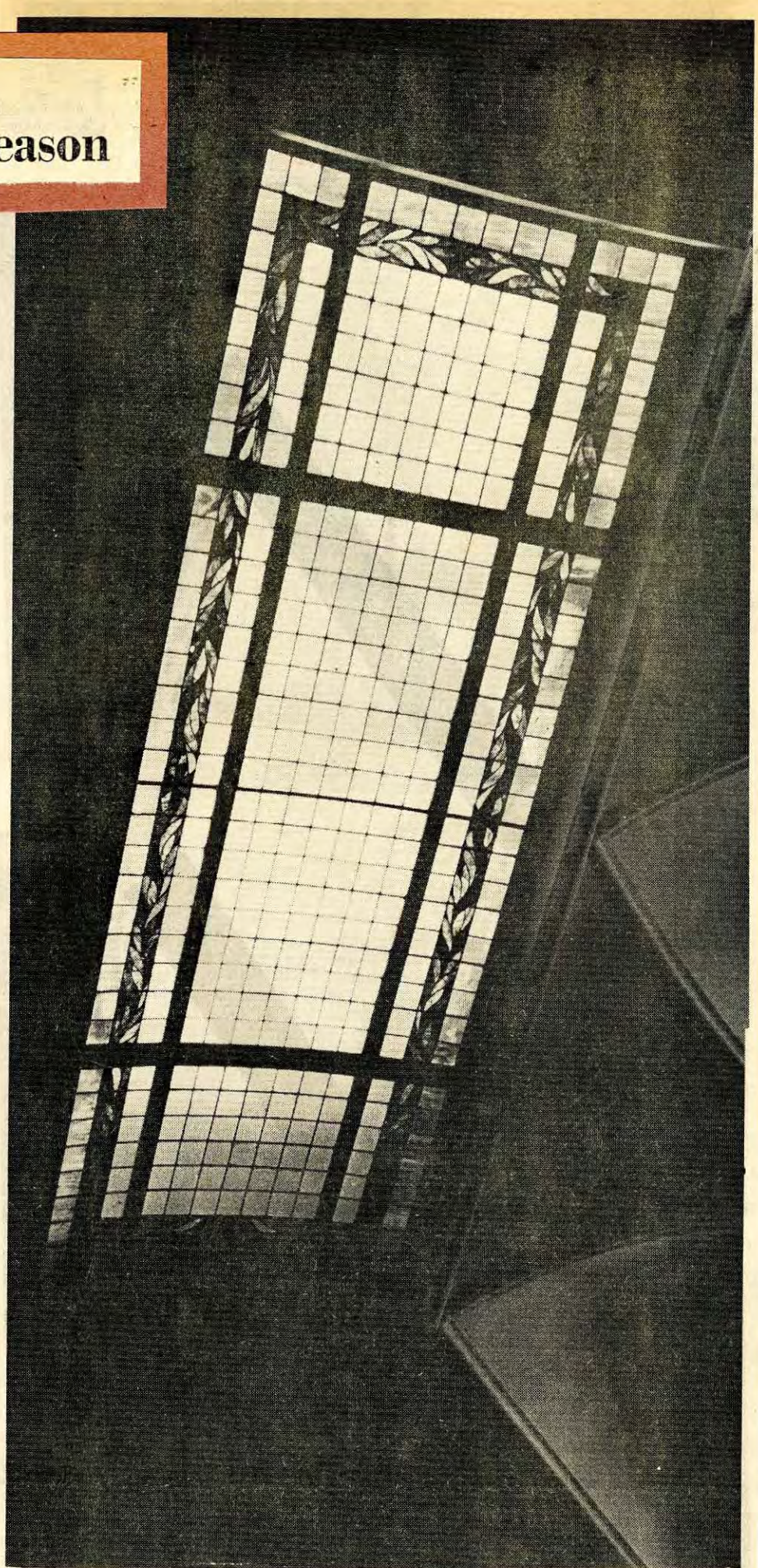
* * *

Mrs. Madrian Lee, who plays the part of the land lady, is a graduate of the Southeastern Academy of Theater and Music and appeared for two years with the Repertory Theater, in Atlanta.

Bill Parsons, a member of Western Kentucky University's speech and theater department, will play the role of one of the tenants of the boarding house. Parsons created the title role and served as a director for the Book of Job, an outdoor drama which appears annually in Pineville. He has also appeared in the Memphis Shakespeare Festival, in Memphis, Tenn.

Dr. Richard Komp, a n instructor of physics at Western, will play the role of a second boarding house tenant. He has had experience as an actor with the Webster Theater Guild, in Rochester, N. Y.

Other characters appearing in the production will be played by Mrs. Marcelaine Robbins, a speech and drama major at Western, and John Craig, a pre-med student at Western.



58 YEAR OLD, the auditorium located on the Western Campus is being modernized. Built in 1911, Van Meter is receiving an enlarged stage, new lighting and ventilation systems and other improvements.

Western Students Take Lead Roles

Alley Playhouse To Present Three-Act Play



"DON'T JUMP," Rachel Roop implores Jim Warford, as they rehearse for the Alley Playhouse production "Luv." The three-act comedy, which will be presented Friday and Saturday and continue Monday through Thursday, spoofs modern plays which deal with the futility of human existence and "luv." All productions will begin at 8:15 p.m.

The futility of human existence and love will be explored in a spoof comedy Friday and Saturday nights as the Alley Playhouse actors present the three-act play "Luv".

The comedy, directed by Whit Combs, a member of Western Kentucky University's drama department faculty, will feature three Western students, Rachel Roop, Jim Warford and George Solley, in the leading roles.

The play, which will also be presented Monday through Thursday, will begin at 8:15 p.m. Admission will be \$1.50 per person, with reservations available by calling 842-0457.

Miss Roop, a senior English and drama major, directed two plays for Western's

experimental theater last year and played the lead role in the Drama Department's production of "The Glass Menagerie".

Warford, a sophomore majoring in English, played the leading role in the Drama Department's production of "Anastacia" last year. He also has played a major role in the Louisville Community Theater's production of "The Rainmaker".

Solley, a senior English major, appeared in the drama department's production of "Liliom" which was presented earlier this year.

500 students participate in speech, drama seminar

Western's speech and theater department sponsored a speech and drama workshop last Monday, for high school students of surrounding schools.

Eighteen schools participated. These students presented demonstrations in different speech areas.

Bowling Green High opened the presentation with a debate demonstration. Following this demonstration, Campbellsville, Russellville, Warren Central and Bowling Green High Schools gave interpretations of various types of literature.

An original oratory demonstration was presented by Hiseville High School and University High demonstrated a one-act play. The concluding demonstration concerned duet-acting and was presented by Bowling Green High.

Western instructors giving critiques on the demonstrations were Paul Corts, Miss Juliet McCrory, Dr. Mildred Howard and Bill Parsons.

The 500 students attending the workshop were representing the

following schools: Todd County Central, Russellville, Scottsville, Simpson, Auburn, Bristol, Warren Central, Ohio County, Glasgow, Breckinridge, Hodgenville Memorial, Mt. St. Joseph, Bardstown, Bowling Green and University High.

Curtain rises on 'Luv' tomorrow in Alley

Theater goers will be in store for a comedy as the lights go on tomorrow night for the Alley Playhouse's production of Murry Schisgal's "Luv."

Starring in the play are Rachael Roop, Jim Warford and George Solley.

A slam on the theater of the absurd, the play involves three characters who try to commit suicide by jumping off a bridge. As the complicated marriage triangle evolves, Ellen says of her husband, "He sits in a corner all day long, rocking

back and forth with a paper bag on his head."

In addition to being a funny play, "Luv" is also full of action. Actors are tossed about the stage, a blouse is ripped off and a man is left standing on stage in his heart-designed boxer shorts when his wife cuts off his pants.

"Luv," under the direction of Whit Combs of the speech and theater department, is billed for 8:15 p.m., Dec. 13-19 in the Alley Playhouse.

Tickets are \$1.75 for adults and \$1.50 for students. For reservations call 842-0456.

'Star Trek' features alum

Charles Napier, a former Western student and member of Western Players was a guest star on the NBC program "Star Trek" last Friday night.

He played the part of Adam, a hippie who was a member of a band of hippies who captured a space ship--the Enterprise--in order to search for the planet Eden. In addition to acting, he also sang several selections.

Formerly of Scottsville, Napier appeared as Iago in the 1967 Alley Playhouse production of Shakespeare's "Othello." Before appearing in "Othello," he had acted in New York's Circle in the Square Theater. Napier has also worked several seasons of community theater in Tampa, St. Petersburg and Clearwater, Fla. and a season in summer stock in "Cross and Sword" at St. Augustine.

Shortly after the Alley production, he left for the Shakespeare Festival at San Diego, Cal. Napier has also been in the TV programs "Wild Wild West" and "Mission Impossible."

Curtain rises Nov. 15

'Birthday Party' billed to open fifth season at Alley Playhouse

The Alley Playhouse, now in its fifth season, plans a series of five major productions with Harold Pinter's "The Birthday Party," a hit from last year's Broadway season, as the opener.

"The Birthday Party" is a typical Pinter shocker which will be directed by Ed Lee. The play opens Nov. 15 at 8:15 p.m.

The second major production will be Murrey Schisfall's "Luv." This comedy has been delighting audiences in New York, London and across the U.S. in its national company tour as well as the movie which was made of it.

"Luv" will be directed by Whit Combs, who was responsible for last year's "Any Wednesday" and "The Zoo Story."

The playhouse is projecting as a special feature an original

musical entitled "Look At Us" by Dr. William Russell with music composed and arranged by David Livingston of Western's music department.

The musical is scheduled for March production with Dr. Russell Miller as director and Livingston as musical director.

The melodrama "A Hatful of Rain" is the fourth adult production in the series. Douglas Roberts is the director.

Special programs for children are also part of the theater's season but no specific choices have been made yet.

Active members and patronships in the playhouse are available until Nov. 15 for this season. Active memberships are \$4 and entitle the holder to participate in all activities of the theater.

Patronships are \$15 and

include two reserved seat tickets to each of the productions in the series.

For further information regarding memberships call Mrs. Warren Hines at 842-5104.

All seats for all performances are reserved due to limited seating. Reservations may be made by calling 842-0457.

Classical films to be offered

The French and speech and theater departments are presenting a special series of films demonstrating classic styles of acting and production beginning Tuesday in Room 108 of the student center.

The first film beginning at 4 p.m. is Oedipus Rex directed by Tyrone Guthrie at Stratford, Canada, and produced in the traditional Greek manner with all male actors per-

forming male and female roles.

The second production on March 11 is of the classic French comic drama--Moliere's The Would-Be Gentleman (Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme).

There will be only one showing of each film and they are open to all classes in the French and speech and theater departments.



PLAYING THE ROLES of the major characters in "The Birthday Party," Alley Playhouse's first production of the season, are Mrs. Madrian Lee and Edward Lee. Lee is also the director of the play, written by Harold Pinter, which will open at 8:15 p.m.

(Staff Photo by R. D. Firkins)
Friday. The play is described by its director as a "shocking surprise" and is basically a black comedy, involving emotional and psychological elements. The play is not recommended for children.

The Western Kentucky University Players

cordially invite you to attend their

Annual Awards Banquet

on Thursday, May 29, 1969

7:30 p.m.

Kentucky Belle Restaurant

Bowling Green, Kentucky

R. s. v. p.
745-2732

*
 THE WESTERN PLAYERS GAZETTE - JOURNAL
 *
 and
 *
 LITERARY REVIEW
 *

Editor and Chief Scapegoat - - - - - Tom Fuller

CLUB NEWS

The Annual Western Players Homecoming Luncheon will be held in the Ballroom of the Helm Hotel, October 26, immediately following the parade at 11:30. Price will be \$2.75 per person and reservations must be in by Wednesday, October 26. Those wishing to attend should contact either Gary Fox or Betty Woods.

It has come to the attention of the Executive Board that not everyone has purchased memberships. This was discovered by taking the number of people claiming to be Western Players and dividing them by the number of paid memberships. The less said about the results, the better. The major productions are financed in part by the dues. Therefore, if you have not bought a membership and do not wish to receive threatening letters or obscene telephone calls, please contact any member of the Exec. Board. Dues are \$2.00 a semester.

There will be a Western Players "Halloween Happening" Oct. 31. Watch the bulletin board for time and place.

OFF - BROADWAY PRODUCTIONS

MAJOR PRODUCTIONS. The first major production of the year will be Ferenc Molnar's folk classic "Liliom." It is set in Budapest at about the turn of the century and deals with the lives of a carousel barker and the young woman he marries. It is the play the musical "Carousel" was adapted from. It will run from November 6th through the 9th, at Snell Hall. Curtain will be at 8:15. Tickets can be purchased from cast members or at the box office.

EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE. Rachel Roop's production of the "Apollo of Belac" will be the Experimental Theatre's first offering. Like last year's "The Bald Soprano," it will be presented in the round. "The Apollo" will play October 24 and 25, in the Auxilliary Ballroom of the Student Center at 7:30.

ALLEY PLAYHOUSE. Rehearsals have started for the "Birthday Party". It opens November 15 at the Morris Alley Playhouse.

WANT ADS

The Catacombs are looking for people interested in performing at a coffeehouse. What are needed are acts that can be produced on a small stage, including such things as monologs, dialogs, folksongs, instrumentals, readings, playlets, ect. Anyone wishing to work at the Catacombs should contact Tom Fuller. Pay is all the cider you can drink.

The Cinema Guild has opened and needs your help. The purpose of this organization is to provide quality film entertainment. Among this year's offerings are "Privilege," "Breathless," and "The Treasure of Sierra Madre," plus three others and short subjects. The complete series of six films will cost faculty members \$5.00 and students \$3.00. Those wishing to join should make application in English Office, Cherry Hall 100 or 128.

Reminder - All paid-up members receive this peerless publication absolutely FREE!!

* THE WESTERN PLAYERS GAZETTE - JOURNAL *
 * and *
 * LITERARY REVIEW *
 * *
 * *

Editor and Chief Scapegoat - - - - - Tom Fuller

Proof-reader - - - - - Homer

CLUB NEWS

In order to promote attendance at the major productions, the Western Players are going to sponsor a ticket selling contest. An award of \$20.00 will be given to the person selling the most tickets to the four major production. To qualify for the award, a contestant must sell at least 40 tickets. The winner will be announced at the Awards Banquet.

This year the Western Players are going to produce a poetry anthology, to be composed completely of material written by Speech and Theatre members. Anyone interested in contributing work should contact either Tom Fuller or Bill De Armond for further details.

ALPHA PSI OMEGA

Alpha Psi Omega and Experimental Theatre are jointly sponsoring a one-act playwriting contest. The play selected will be produced by the Experimental Theatre in the spring. Plays submitted must not be over one hour long. People interested should submit two copies to either Bill De Armond or Mr. McCombs.

OFF-BROADWAY PRODUCTION

Jean-Paul Satre's "No Exit," directed by Leo Burester in association with the Experimental Theatre opens December 11 in the Catacombs under Newman Hall. Starring in this production are Susie French, Tim McGaughey, Lisette Ray, and Steve Woodring. Admission free.

Presently playing at the Alley Playhouse is Harold Pinter's "The Birthday Party." Reservations can be made by calling 842-9457. Try-outs have been held for the next Alley play, "Luv," and the cast consists of Jim Waford, Rachel Roop, and George Solley.

The next major production will be "The Star-Spangled Girl," and will begin its run on January 15.

WANTS

Dr. Miller is presently in room 313 of the City-County Hospital. He would surely appreciate cards or letters or anything to show that we haven't forgotten him. According to reports, he is recovering nicely.

WANTED - People to support the new Western Players Intermural Basketball Team. Watch the bulletin board for schedule of games. Yeh team. . .and other such sentiments.

The next Cinema Guild presentation will be "The Treasure of Sierra Madre" plus a short subject, "The Tell-Tale Heart." They will be shown December 10. Memberships can be purchased at the door.

THE WESTERN PLAYERS GAZETTE - JOURNAL
and
LITERARY REVIEW

EXTRAEXTRAEXTRAEXTRAEXTRAEXTRAEXTRAEXTRAEXTRAEXTRAEXTRAEXTRAEXTRA

Gala Christmas Issue

Editor and Chief Scapegoat - - - - - Tom Fuller
Artist - - - - - Holly Patton
Sour Grapes - - - - - Steve Smith

CLUB NEWS

A Memorial Fund has been organized for Dr. Miller to provide for a scholarship to be awarded to deserving Drama students. Anyone wishing to donate money to this cause is urged to contact Mrs. Childress in the Speech and Theatre channel.

The University has announced that the new Fine Arts building will not be named after anyone. Therefore, a write-in campaign has been started to have the new theatre named after Dr. Miller. Letters should be written to President Thompson, the Board of Regents, and Congressman Natcher.

Pre-registration cards are now in the channel and all speech, drama, and speech-theatre majors are urged to pick them up and make advisor appointments as soon as possible.

The Western Players Annual Poetry Anthology needs new material. A considerable amount has already been collected but more is needed to make the project a complete success. Poets wishing to be published should contact either Tom Fuller or Bill DeArmond.

There has been a major change in next semester's line-up of plays. Since Van Meter Auditorium will not be completed in time for the final major production, the play "Wait Until Dark" has been dropped and "J.B." has been moved into that position. A new opening major production will be chosen and will be announced soon.

ALPHA PSI OMEGA

All members of Alpha Psi Omega planning to buy pins this semester are reminded that the deadline for ordering is December 18. People interested should contact Gail Barton.

OFF - OFF - BROADWAY PRODUCTIONS

MAJOR PRODUCTIONS. The next major production will be Neil Simon's "The Star-Spangled Girl" which will open January 15 in Snell Auditorium. It is under the direction of Mr. Bill Parsons and stars Steve Smith, Kathy Walters, and William Weathers. Tickets will be \$1.00 and can be purchased from the members of the cast and crew.

EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE. "No Exit" opens tonight at the Catacombs under Newman Hall. Directed by Leo Burmester and Starring Susie French, Tim McGaughey, Lisette Ray, and Steve Woodring, it is the story of three sinners trapped in a hell they made for themselves. Admission will be free.

ALLEY PLAYHOUSE. Murray Schisogall's hit comedy "Luv" opens Friday at the Alley Playhouse on Morris Alley. The director is Mr. Don W. Combs and the cast consists of George Solley, Rachel Roop, and Jim Warford. It will play through the 19 except for Sunday. Reservations can be made by calling 842-0457.

BOWLING GREEN HIGH. The Bowling Green High School drama students will present "Brigadoon" December 12 and 13.

W E S T E R N P L A Y E R S S P O R T S

This section of the WPGJ&LR will be dedicated to informing members as to the activities of the Western Players Intermural Basketball Team. Game schedules, scores, as well as the names of team members will appear regularly. Please watch this space.

E D I T O R I A L

And Other Pretensions

The Western Players Gazette-Journal and Literary Review is the official organ of the Western Players and exists to inform members of items of interest to them. These items include club news, the times and dates of plays, the people appearing in and directing said plays, news concerning the national dramatics fraternity, Alpha Psi Omega, and items of general interest. It is also a forum for people interested in drama to contact and inform other people with the same interests. The WPGJ&LR is sent monthly to everyone who has purchased a Western Players membership and copies are also available in the channel, in the library lounge, and in the Student Center. However - here comes the editorial, gang - in order to do the job that should be done, the staff needs help. What kind of help? Information. Especially things that would be of interest to the group as a whole. Also personal announcements such as weddings, births, address changes, or what-have-you? News items should be given - verbally or written - to Tom Fuller, pinned to the bulletin board or given to Mrs. Childress. And we thank you.

W A N T A D S

Try-outs will be held December 12 for the next Experimental Theatre production, "Box and Cox," from 6 to 8 in the Student Center, Room 210. Directed by Linda Spurlock, it will be televised as well as produced on stage.

WANTED - People to attend the re-opening of the Manhattan Towers, sometime in December. Appearing at the opening will be the "Spring-Ettes," a local dance group. Winners of a first place award, they appeared on Channel 4 recently. Members are Jimmie Lou Combs, Ronnah Childress, Linda Mayes, and Paula Owens. Dance director and choreographer is Miss Bonita Springs.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE STAFF OF THE GAZETTE-JOURNAL.

THE WESTERN PLAYERS
GAZETTE-JOURNAL
AND CASPELY'S REVIEW

EXTREM ★

Vol. I

Number 4

Editor and Chief Scapegoat - - - - -Tom Fuller

Artist - - - - - D.E.R. Schatten

Proof-reader - - - - - Applications now being considered.

C L U B N E W S

The Western Player's Carnival of Characters is scheduled for February 14. A major change will be made this year; no dinner will be served. Instead refreshments will be provided and only a nominal entrance fee charged. There will also be dance music. The object is for each person to come as his or hers favorite character from history or fiction. A prize will be awarded for the best male and female costume, the best couple costumes, and the best skit. Time and place will be posted on the bulletin board.

The Western Players Poetry Anthology is out! Compiled by the staff of the WPGJ&LR and Master Bill DeArmond, it is a collection of work by such acknowledged artists as Pat Weaver, Steve Woodring, Carolyn Deweese, Leo Burmester, Linda Smith, and many more - including the editors. It will be on sale in the Speech-Theatre Channel and at the Major Productions. All proceeds go to the Dr. Russell H. Miller Memorial Fund.

O F F - B R O A D W A Y P R O D U C T I O N S

MAJOR PRODUCTIONS. "The Star-Spangled Girl" opened last night in Snell Hall and will run through January 18. Starring Kathy Walter, William Weathers and Steve Smith, it is the story of a young girl who believes 'My country, right or wrong,' and her conflict with two young men who believe 'My country's wrong, wrong, wrong.' This brilliant comedy by Neil Simon is under the direction of Mr. Bill Parsons. Curtain is at 8:15 and admission is \$1.00.

EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE. The next Experimental Theatre production will be John Madison Morton's "Box and Cox." It will play January 20 and 21 at Snell Hall. Directed by Linda Spurlock and starring Bill Nally, Shirlee Strother, and Tom Fuller, it's the story of a landlady who rents a room to two men at the same time. This play will also be televised by the Mass Media Department.

W E S T E R N P L A Y E R S S P O R T S

In their first game the Western Players Intermural Basketball rather decidedly defeated Sigma Tau Nu by a score of 49 to 25. Kevin Reynolds scored 19 points and Fred Jeffries made a total of 19 rebounds. Other members of the team are Will Ed King, Ricky Pudlo, Kenny Spurlock, Jimmy Parrish, Ted Sauer, Nat Potter, and Don Finneran. Their next game will be tonight against the "Trolls." Check the bulletin board for results.

L A T E N E W S *

Try-outs for Arthur Miller's "The Crucible" will be held about the middle of February. There are 12 parts offered.



March 26, 1969

Editor and Chief Scapegoat - - - - - Tom Fuller

Artist - - - - - D.E.R. Schatten

Proofreader - - - - - Someone please volunteer for this

After much long and frustrating searching, a copy of the Western Players Constitution was finally found. Dated February, 1941, it was decided that it was slightly dated and that a committee should be formed to rewrite and revise it. The Western Players Constitutional Revision Committee which consisted of Tom Fuller, John David McCombs, and Gail Barton, have completed their work and the new Constitution will be presented to the general membership for discussion and ratification at the next club meeting. This meeting will be held April 1, after the last performance of Steve Woodring's Studio Production, "The Lesson." Check the bulletin Board across from Mrs. Childress' office for the time and place. It is hoped that copies of the Constitution can be made available before the meeting so the membership can have time to study it prior to voting. Among the changes made are the introduction of an apprentice program and the reduction of the Executive Board from eleven offices to five.

Other items of importance to be brought up at the meeting will be the election of next year's Executive Board. The office that will be open are Chairman of the Board, Secretary-Historian, Business Manager, Publicity Chairman, and Social Chairman. There will also be a group discussion on how to keep from repeating the mistakes which have hamstrung the Western Players during the last two semesters. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

This year's Awards Banquet will be held at the Kentucky Belle Restaurant on 8th Street on May 29. The cost will be \$3.00 a person and serving will start promptly at 7:30. Reservations must be made at least one week before the 29th - no one will be admitted to the banquet without a reservation. However, this year people who for some reason or another cannot attend the banquet will be able to attend the awards ceremony. After everyone has finished eating, they will go to the new theatre in Gordon Wilson Hall where the awards will be presented. The Award's Banquet is the major Player sponsored social event. Dress will be formal.

Due to schedule conflicts and student teaching, Bill DeArmond resigned as Chairman of the Board of the Western Players. Tom Fuller was elected as interim Chairman.